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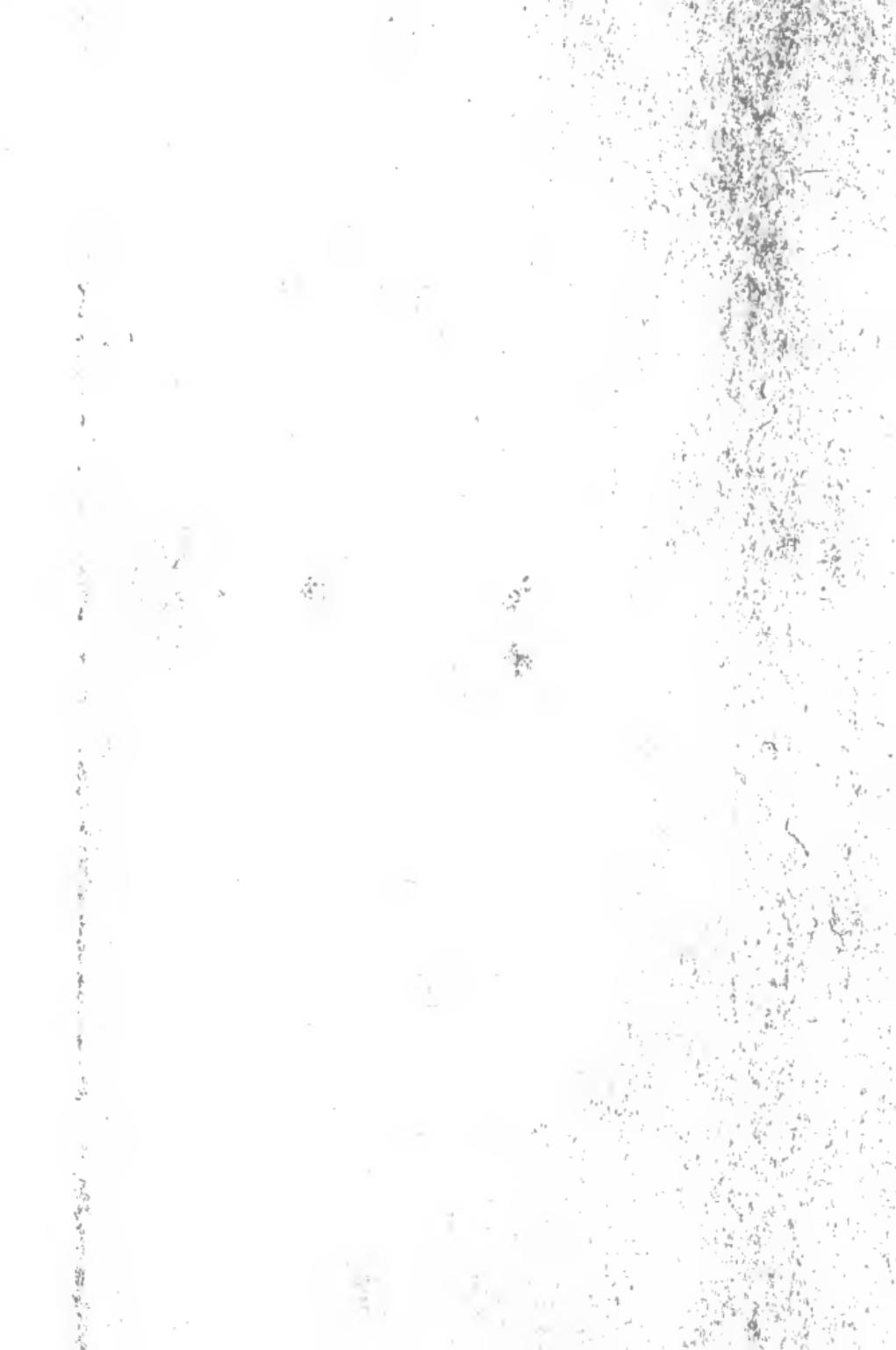
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August 21 1806  
written by Capt. Comley of the  
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See italy, Sicily, &c. for  
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THE  
EMIGRANTS, &c.  
OR THE  
HISTORY  
OF  
AN EXPATRIATED FAMILY,  
BEING  
A DELINEATION OF ENGLISH MANNERS,  
DRAWN FROM REAL CHARACTERS,  
WRITTEN IN AMERICA,  
BY G. IMLAY, ESQ.  
AUTHOR OF THE TOPOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION  
OF ITS WESTERN TERRITORY.

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VOL. I.

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LONDON.

PRINTED FOR A. HAMILTON, NEAR GRAY'S-INN-GATE,  
HOLBORN.

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## P R E F A C E.

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HAD I not been flattered in the accounts my friends have given me of the favourable reception, which my letters regarding the western territory of America received in England, perhaps I should not have been bold enough to offer a work of this kind to the world.

In this history I have scrupulously attended to natural circumstances,

VOL. I.

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and the manners of the day ; and in every particular I have had a real character for my model. The principal part of the story is founded upon facts, and I was only induced to give the work in the style of a novel, from believing it would prove more acceptable to the generality of readers.

Perhaps it is the most effectual way of communicating moral instruction ; for when the vices and follies of the world are held up to us, so connectedly with incidents which are interesting, it is most likely they will leave a more lasting impression than when given in a dull narrative.

How

How far I have succeeded in my object, must be left to the world to determine; for I have neither the vanity to expect, nor the arrogance to claim any other merit, than having endeavoured to prompt many readers to turn their thoughts toward the important political questions now agitated throughout Europe; for upon the fate of which, doubtless, materially depends the happiness of mankind.

These important principles have been treated of by so many authors of the most consummate penetration and talents, that it would only be a presumption in me to attempt to say any thing new upon the subject; for

I beleive it is only possible to place the same ideas in different points of view.

Men of understanding, who are not biassed by selfish considerations, entertain nearly the same sentiments upon political science; and contemplate the progressive improvements in arts and government, as striding to that perfection, which limits the human capacity; and it is only the errors of education, that have caused many persons to reason upon a practical polity, deduced from false principles, grounding their arguments upon the examples which the ancient states of Greece and Rome afford us, without

without recollecting those existed, when society was in an infant state—when knowledge was monopolized,—when superstition supplied the place of reason, that the imperfections of their own systems made them an easy prey to the surrounding barbarians ; and that the cloud of ignorance which overspread Europe for many centuries past, totally eclipsed the rays of truth, while the government of men was a mere trick of state, and that thus it happened, the ill digested systems in modern Europe have been productive of so many miseries to mankind.

Printing and navigation have compleatly changed the complexion of

Europe ; they must change that of the whole GLOBE : and the dissemination of knowledge, must mould the minds of men into a more social texture ; and when reciprocity constitutes the basis of politics, protection will be extended to every description of persons ; and not untill that is done will the great object of philosophy be answered.

As to the form of a government, provided its constituent principles are good, and the executive part has efficiency, it is all that is required ; and certainly, the more simple the springs it acts upon, the greater will be its unity,

unity, and the more extensive its protection.

It is not in the least extraordinary, that the generality of men should be divided in their political sentiments, nor that Englishmen should believe that their political system is the model of perfection; since Great Britain for many centuries, was the only country upon the earth where the advantages of freedom have been properly ascertained; and if they are intitled to the merit of having shewn to mankind the radiance of its form, and laid the foundation by their manly efforts for its extension, and thus illuminated the reasoning faculties of half the

WORLD, it is perhaps time to place a mirror to their view, that they may behold the decay of those features, which once were so lovely.

It is not altogether fair, to infer from the prosperity of a country, that its ministry is equitable, and its government salutary. That is a consequence of the improvements in arts and manufactures, the progress of agriculture, and the accumulations of capitals employed in trade.

But it is necessary, to look into the miseries of individuals ; for it was the object of man, when he entered into a state of society to secure his comfort

fort and happiness, and not to aggrandise one citizen, at the expence of another ; and every benevolent and generous man must pronounce that an imperfect or unjust system, which suffers the innocent and unfortunate, to become victims to its policy.

I have no doubt but the many misfortunes which daily happen in domestic life, and which too often precipitate women of the most virtuous inclinations into the gulf of ruin, proceed from the great difficulty there is in England, of obtaining a divorce. Those who have paid a superficial regard to this subject, will be of a different opinion.

Should

Should it be asked for what reason I withhold my opinion, if I have formed one, respecting what ought to be the nature of law upon this subject, I should answer, that this is not altogether a proper work for a business of that importance; nor have I the presumption to attempt to legislate for the world; for my object is confined to induce them to reflect upon the unhappy consequences which flow from the present practice, and that they may take into their consideration, the establishing, by a more manly and enlightened policy, laws that will in future prevent the sacrifice which the present practices of

matri-

matrimonial engagements necessarily produce.

It was no small surprise to me when I was in England, to find a man, who had been first minister, in a neighbouring kingdom, and who had fled from his country, to avoid being punished for a robbery actually committed upon the property with which he was intrusted, not only obtain an asylum in Great Britain, but to be caressed and closetted repeatedly both with the minister and his master; after the notoriety of his peculation was as flagrant as the action was dishonourable, appeared truly astonishing,

ing; and I was satisfied, while such were the moral sentiments, at what you call the fountain head of justice, it must be something like a miracle that can prevent depravity from becoming general.

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THE  
EMIGRANTS, &c.

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*Introduction.*

MR. T——n was an eminent merchant in the city of London, part of whose family having been extravagant, ruined his fortune, and obliged him to seek an asylum in America.

His whole family, which consisted of an only son, and three daughters, the youngest of whom was Caroline, followed his fortune.

Whether the character of the old man had been that of a fair trader, or not, I never gave myself any concern about; as I have ever felt myself superior to receiving any unfavourable impression against

an innocent progeny, for the depravity of their parents.

It is, however, certain that the old gentleman upon his arrival in Philadelphia, thought it most prudent to remove into the back settlements of the country, and there in obscurity endeavour to preserve that tranquillity, to which the follies and dissipation of Mrs. T——n and his son had made him a stranger.

There would have been some virtue in that determination, had it been uncontaminated with that miserable selfishness, which ever characterizes little minds ; for it seems that the old man's principal object, was to avoid the importunities of his creditors, who might have followed him to Philadelphia.

The departure of this unfortunate family from Philadelphia, exhibited a most pathetic scene.

Eliza, the eldest daughter, had been married to Mr. F——, who had been passenger

ger in the ship which conveyed them across the Atlantic, and who having settled his business, was about to return to England; and while she was preparing to resume her rank in the gay circles of London, decked with all the elegance of a splendid fortune, and to move in the radiance of courtly lures, this dejected family was preparing to traverse a region which they had been taught to believe was inhabited mostly by wild beasts and savages; unattended, except by the driver of the waggon, they had hired for the purpose of transporting the small hoards they had preserved from the wreck of that opulence, they once so prodigally squandered.

The lovely Caroline's face diffused the soft effulgence of an opening rose when heaven impearls it with the morning dew: —and as you have seen the æther of a western sky brighten the horizon in the evening showers of June, so shot the æthereal sparks from her half-closed eye.—With her

heart beating high in the transports of nature her lovely bosom seemed to palpitate with emotions which threatened the confines of her delicate frame; and when she was severed from the arms of her more fortunate sister, it appeared as if the fibres of her tender heart would burst with the agonies of sorrow.

Every spectator caught the flame of sympathy, and in that querulous moment, we appeared like the mourners of Adonis surrounding the Queen of Love.—The hasty hours upon the rapid wings of Time hurried on the moment of their departure.—Language then was mute.—As when a shipwrecked crew, who are entombed in the boisterous waves, and whose murmurs cease, and you no longer hear aught but the scolding winds;—as such was that *luctiferous* schism.

## LETTER I.

Mr. Il—ray to Capt. Arl—ton.

Philadelphia, Sept.

MY DEAR ARL—TON,

THE English family which I have so often mentioned in my letters to you, and who appear to be reduced to extreme penury, left us this morning for Pittsburg.

I was present at their departure, and such were the sensations I experienced at that interesting scene, that I am sure it has made impressions too lasting for time to erase.

Whatever may have been the cause of their present wretchedness, is of no consequence,—intrepid generosity never waits to enquire into causes which lead to such lamentable events; but eagerly seeks

for an opportunity to alleviate the pangs of human misery.

Figure to yourself two beautiful girls, possessed of all the graces of person and mind, which nature and the embellishments of education can furnish—born to prospects, the most flattering—arrived at that age when the human heart begins to thrill with ardent expectations for the possession of those social pleasures, and matured raptures, which diffuse a mild lustre over the dignity of our nature; and which so amply compensates for the tedious æra of juvenile mortifications;—now torn from the bosom of their friends and dear relatives,—banished from their country into the wilds of a desert, and in the gloomy atmosphere of sorrow, perhaps they have not enough of paltry gold to procure sustenance; and I am sure that your motions will be accelerated, in order to overtake them, that you may administer some relief to their distract-  
ed minds.

I know

I know you are a soldier, which is a sufficient warranty to me for the practice of that delicacy which ever distinguishes the gentleman, and real generosity from an ostentatious benevolence.

There is a manner in doing every thing, and I have too much confidence in your friendship, to suppose you will deprive me of the pleasure of having contribued to the relief of those amiable girls.—The plan rests between us.—It shall never be promulgated by me.—Draw upon me at sight.

Adieu,

G. IL—RAY.

## LETTER II.

*Capt. Arl-ton to Mr. Il-ray.*

Baltimore, Sept.

I Received your letter two days after date, my dear friend, and have with the greatest alacrity prepared for my journey.

I hope to set out in the course of to-morrow, and as your fair friends will only have had five days the start of me, I expect to overtake them at the foot of the mountain.

You shall hear from me on my arrival at Pittsburg.—But let me beg that in our future correspondence, nothing may be said of pecuniary matters; as I had flattered myself that you had known your friend better.

J. ARL-TON.

LET-

## LETTER III.

*Mrs. W—— to Miss R——.*

Pittsburg, Sept.

WE had but just arrived here my dear R—— when a circumstance whimsical enough happened. Among the gentlemen of the army who have retired to this country, is a Dr. K——, an old acquaintance of Mr. W——'s. The Doctor is a man of facetious manners, grotesque figure, and of an amiable disposition, and with a very sensible heart, which ever makes him a dupe to the artifices of designing woman.

Mr. W—— whose greatest foible, and which is a very dangerous one, is that of laying schemes to promote his mirth at the expence of his friends, induced him to suggest to the Doctor the idea of paying his addresses to a buxom young widow, who is said to be possessed of considerable property.

The Doctor consulted his friend Capt. C—— upon the business, when he said to the Captain, that though his figure was awkward, yet, he thought (stroaking his face at the same time) that his countenance was that of a gentleman; in that opinion C—— did not fail to flatter him, and encouraged his intention, by assuring him, that his address was irresistible.

Such is the vanity of men, my dear R——, that there is not one among them, however deformed and emaciated, but think, they have only to direct their artillery against us, to make us surrender at their mercy.

The Doctor had scarcely commenced his attack; when the widow upbraided him for his folly, and as C—— is a man who cannot resist his propensity to expose every thing which is pleasant, we had the story with all the particulars one day at dinner, in the Doctor's presence, as having happened to a person of C——'s acquaintance; but which appeared so pointed to the Doctor,

tor, (though by the bye, not a soul would have enjoyed the thing except Mr. W——,) that he could not contain himself, and burst into a most vehement passion, which produced a general laugh at the ridiculous manner in which he had exposed himself: and what made it the more agreeable to the Ladies present was, that the Doctor has always declared a repugnance to matrimony.

You see R—— that genius is every where the same, and that when it is embellished by education, and enlivened with good humour and fancy, the happiness of rational and social beings, is as secure in these wild regions, as in the most populous cities of the universe.

The comedy of human life is exhibited every day upon the great theatre of the world, as well as upon the theatrical stage; and only people defective in sensibility, are obliged to have recourse to such arts to be amused.

You must not infer from such sentiments that I am an enemy to the stage, for I am very far from it, I assure you.

In every great country there will always be a number of preposterous characters, whose absurdities can only be generally exposed upon the stage; and as it may, under proper regulations, be made the censor of public manners, the terror of vice, and at the same time encourage virtue, I think it one of the most brilliant contrivances for the promotion of human felicity that ever was devised. Adieu my dear R——; mention both Mr. W—— and myself kindly to your affectionate father, and assure him how very much we lament his infirmities.— I hear that we are to have an addition to our little society of two English Ladies of whom I shall not fail to give you an account.

I am your's affectionately,

MARIA W——.

LET-

## LETTER IV.

*Mrs. W—— to Miss R——.*

Pittsburg, Sept.

THE untimely pleasantry of Capt. C—— was very near having been attended with disagreeable consequences. But as there is something irresistible in reason united with humour, the Doctor was so forcibly struck with his absurdities, after he received C——'s answer to a challenge which he had sent him, and which he now shews and laughs at as a good thing, that he asked C——'s pardon in the most gentlemanlike terms, and acknowledged that the folly originated on his part, and of which he was now so sensible, that he wished to make his concessions as ample as possible.

This

This affair has been altogether so ludicrous my dear R——, I think if it was promulgated to the world, with all the particulars, and C——'s manner of treating affairs of honour, that it would place the practice of duelling in so ridiculous a point of view, that the greatest advocates for that unmanly and barbarous custom, would appear equally as much ashamed of their opinions, as the Doctor was of his conduct. However as you have some knowledge of the two men, and know the celebrity which the Doctor acquired in the unhappy affair between him and Mr. B—, I will send you a copy of C——'s answer, as I think there is not the smallest ground to suspect the Doctor's courage; particularly, after the many mortal proofs he has given of the most heroic firmness.

*Copy*

*Copy of the Answer to the Doctor's Challenge.*

"SIR,

" WHEN a man commits an absurdity, he must expect to be laughed at; for which reason, a man of sense will cautiously avoid doing any thing that might render him ridiculous in the eyes of the world: but as no human being is destitute of foibles, it is the business of rational men, when they feel their sensibility wounded, to reflect upon what was the cause of it; and I am sensible whenever a brave man is convinced that his own folly was the reason of his being ridiculed, that instead of being hurt, he would be convinced he ought to thank his friends for laughing him out of his inconsistencies.

" Suppose for a moment you had not felt the force of ridicule, and should have renewed

renewed your attention to the widow, who I think is about five and twenty, and you are nearly fifty, possibly the widow might have appeared more pliable, and your fondest wishes might have been crowned with success; but in all probability it would have completed your shame.

" You have had at least thirty years experience in the world, and from your profession as a Physician, you must have acquired some knowledge of the human constitution, and which knowledge I apprehend must have convinced you, that it is almost an impossible thing for youth to be attached to old age.

" No man can be a warmer advocate for the fair fame of women than I am; but I should call myself a monster, if I could expect from them a forbearance so repugnant to the genial current of human felicity—a forbearance which strikes at the first and most important principles of our holy religion, which is to increase and multiply,

tiply, and saps the very sources of, that population which is so necessary to lead to our aggrandizement and future prosperity. Besides, what can be so unmanly as to expect the exercise of a temperance on the part of women, for which our conduct affords such bad examples?

“ When you have brought these considerations to your view, I think you must be made sensible, that in case you were to marry the widow, you would become a cuckold; and whether that is a crime or not, is of no consequence, for it never fails to fix an obliquy upon men who are so unfortunate, which renders them infinitely more contemptible in the eyes of the world, than the most atrocious and nefarious felons.

“ I shall leave you to your own reflections, and to judge, whether or not your friends do not do you a favour by making such of your weaknesses a subject for their merriment, and thereby prevent you from becoming

becoming an object of ridicule to an invidious public.

" If I encouraged you to court the widow, it was done with the purest of motives; that of not checking the ardent expectations of a romantic man, which I know, judging from the human heart, is always dangerous; and if you did not discover the irony in my manner of speaking of your address, you must have been inebriated with the most foolish desire, and which alone, could have prevented your seeing a thing so palpable and pointed.

" Perhaps you may consider this as an elaborate apology; but for fear that should be the case, I must inform you, it is not intended as such; for as you were the aggressor in the first instance from a breach of good manners, and that too, in the presence of Ladies; and in the next for challenging; I must insist upon your asking my pardon for the double offence. But in case you are not willing to concede to these terms,

terms, I have a right to demand that you fight me in my own way, it being my privilege as the party called upon.

" But as I am addressing myself to a man of sense, I shall first take some notice of the original way of settling points of honour ; and as I am sensible that you are a man of the purest delicacy, I flatter myself you will agree with me, when I say, that the present vulgar manner of fighting duels, is a deviation from the *sublime ideas of ancient cavilliers, and so far a derogation from that heroic institution.*

" Whether or not a person having been engaged in a personal combat be a disgrace to him, I will leave you to determine ; but it is however certain, that it proves he is either a brute, a fool, or has been in bad company ; and whether it was by chance he was thrown into the society of ruffians signifies not in the least, as a quarrel with such creatures is equally an impeachment upon a man's understanding.

" Montesquieu

" Montesquieu says ' that among the barbarians the offended person began with declaring in the presence of the judge, that such a person had committed such an action; and the accused made answer that he lied; upon which the judge gave orders for the duel.' The same author observes ' that gentlemen fought on horse-back, and armed at all points; and that none but villains fought on foot.'

" Now as you are in every respect a gentleman, *and an enemy to all kind of innovation, I demand that the venerable and sacred practice of duelling, be restored by our example, and that this wise and gallant system be renovated, that it may acquire its ancient splendour, which has been so materially fullied by the vulgar manners of the unpolished moderns.*

" I shall wait impatiently for your answer, and in the mean time I shall prepare for the combat, and shall leave it to your discretion, whether we shall erect a monument to immortalize our folly, or your prudence.

I have

I have the honour to be with every due consideration.

Yours, &c.

Signed P. C—.”

The Doctor was so forcibly stricken with C—'s good sense and his own vanity and madness, that he went instantly to thank him for thus having rallied him out of his false and ridiculous opinions, and giving him a proper sense of those absurd men who first commit a breach of good manners, or by the most preposterous conduct excite the laughter of their friends, and then assassinate them for having corrected the former or ridiculed the latter.

The English family arrived this evening attended by our old friend Capt. Arl-ton.—My first object in the morning will be to call upon them.

It is now past one in the morning, and Mr. W—— is importuning me to retire, and begs I will leave off the practice

of

of writing so late at night; but it is from these lucubrations alone I can receive the smallest solace for that poignant dereliction which I find from the absence of my dearest friend, and who I wish again to clasp in the arms of her most tender and affectionate

M. W.—.

LET-

## LETTER V.

*Capt. Arl-ton to Mr. Il-ray.*

Pittsburg, Sept.

I Set out on the day I mentioned for this place, my dear Il-ray, and though I posted upon the wings of the most ardent expectation, still I did not overtake the charming T——ns until they had ascended some distance up the mountain.

Whether it was owing to the impetuosity of my disposition or not, I will leave you to determine; but it is however certain, that I had travelled some distance on the west road before I recollectetd the rout from Philadelphia to this place was through Lancaster, which put me more than a day's journey out of my way.

The

The people every where at the inns gave me tidings of the lovely emigrants, in whose fortune every heart seemed to be interested.—They deprecated that phrenzy which prodigally squanders the substance that is so necessary to support the delicacy and elegance which so admirably characterizes the youngest of the Miss T—ns.

My anxiety increased every foot I moved in that ratio which so rapidly multiplies beyond the powers of comprehension.—As I approached the mountain I expected every moment to get sight of the waggon which transported them, and such was my fervour, that I continued my journey without intermission the last four and twenty hours before I overtook them.—It was after travelling all night, and just after the sun had risen, and was gilding those immense plains, extending on either hand at the foot of the mountain, I first caught sight of Caroline—she was resting upon a large

a large stone on the road side, when I came upon her by surprize,—was leaning with one hand upon her cheek, and held a handkerchief, which I thought had been applied to her eyes, that were glimmering like the rays of the sun through the mist of an April shower.

My appearance was so sudden that she started from her seat, when I threw myself from my horse, and instantly informed her who I was.—Her fears were soon allayed, and she endeavoured to put on an air of chearfulness. Sir, said Caroline, you must have travelled with wonderful expedition, for your friend Mr. Il—ray said, you would not set out from Baltimore until the 15th, and wished very much my father to delay our journey, alledging, that as we were strangers we might meet with inconveniences which it would be in your power to obviate, as you were better acquainted with the modes and customs of the country.

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THE EMIGRANTS.

She had risen from her seat at this time, and as my servant had taken my horse, we walked slowly on together after the wagon.

Gracious heaven! said I, Miss T——n you must have encountered many difficulties; and I lament that my motions have been so tardy as to prevent my overtaking you sooner.—Caroline thanked me for my solicitude; but assured me they had met with no inconveniences whatever; for as they knew, they were not to expect such accomodations as are general in England, they had been most agreeably disappointed; for what the honest people on the road wanted of the necessary articles to accomodate travellers, they had made most ample compensation in their disposition to please.

All this time it appeared to me not a little strange, that Caroline should be alone, and walking.—When we had arrived at a steep part of the mountain, I begged that she would accept of my arm, as it would assist

assist her in ascending a height that was almost perpendicular.—But which she declined, with observing, that the waggoner had provided her with a walking stick, and she thought in such an uneven road it was more easy to walk unassisted.

We had now got sight of the waggon, which had stopped to know what had become of the fair pedestrian; when to my utter astonishment the brother was still sleeping, or rather had not risen.

You will please to understand, that it is not an uncommon practice for people who are travelling over this mountain, to sleep at nights in their waggon or carriages.

I was introduced by Caroline to the family, the brother excepted, and when the waggoner had stopped to bait his horses at a hovel on the road side, we began to prepare for breakfast. My sumpter mules came up in good time, and while my servants were unpacking and preparing the tea apparatus, of which hitherto I had made

no use, Caroline requested that I would breakfast with them, to which I told her I should readily assent, but I begged she would not fatigue herself, for my men would very soon prepare it; she answered with a most fascinating smile, and said, that it was quite ready.

George (for I find that is the brother's name) had by this time roused himself from his pillow, and like a torpid beast which takes shelter in some cavern during the inclement season of the year, insensible to every thing passing, which when the genial spring has again warmed into life the vegetable world, saunters out and eagerly devours whatever falls in his way; so came the drone from his lethargic bed.

He entered very familiarly into conversation with me. Superciliously apologized for the style in which I was invited to breakfast—reprobated with pointed wit the uncouth figures of the people on the road, who he said, with the affectation of civility wanted

wanted that polish of manners necessary to make men bareable—wondered that our legislative body had not thought of introducing turnpike roads, and seemed to think it would have been impossible for him to have had a comfortable morning sleep, even if he had been in one of those coaches described by Baron Beilfield, as being so convenient and elegant when you are obliged to travel day and night.

And is it possible, said I to myself, that a man who is not deranged can talk such absurd nonsense?

Caroline saw I was quite amazed, and with the most charming vivacity, turning her head at the same time to the right, and pointing to some venerable firs, between which and upon the side of a high and rocky precipice grew several mountain laurels, depicted in the most animating colours the beauties of wildness.

Breakfast being over the waggoner let us know that he was ready to proceed; the

old people and George took their seats in the waggon, Mary being indisposed had taken her bowl of tea without having risen, and Carolin still persisted in her wish to walk.

I had ascertained from the waggoner the place he intended to reach by the evening, and had accordingly dispatched my men, in order that we might be better accommodated there on our arrival. And travelling in this kind of way, we arrived here on the fourth day, after I had joined this extraordinary family.

I have the pleasure to inform you that Caroline's spirits are considerably mended, and that she is quite enchanted with the situation of this place. Mary has recovered from her fatigue, and is in other respects perfectly well.

They know that I am writing to you, and have requested that I will assure you, that the family are not insensible of your many kindnesses.

Farewell.

Farewell. I will give you Caroline's reasons for walking in my next. I am obliged to conclude for the present, for fear of loosing the chance of sending this.

I am your's truly,

J— A—.

## LETTER VI.

*Miss R——— to Mrs. W———.*

Bristol, Sept.

MY DEAR W———,

I Am still importuned upon the subject of matrimony by Mr. S———, and urged to accept of him by my father, who certainly has no idea how repugnant such a connection would be to my feelings, otherwise I am sure his paternal regard which has ever been of the most tender kind, would not permit him to reiterate his importunities upon the subject.

I cannot love him though I cannot always resist his powers of persuasion.—That torrent of eloquence by which he fascinates would be exercised in the senate to more advantage—for with an understanding so acute, a wit so brilliant, and a delivery so happy,

happy, it is impossible; but such talents would prove an acquisition to any body of legislators in the world.

The female heart admires every thing which is refined and brilliant;—but the attachments of the soul are of a higher and more pure nature. They are generated in the celestial elements of desire, and emanate from bosoms congenial to each other.

Love is the food of the heart, which invigorates the mind, and it must lead to rapture in every situation in despite of the vicissitudes of fortune, whilst it gives a lustre to human nature transcendently pleasing.

How very cautious ought we to be my dear W—— in precipitating ourselves into a situation which may make us eternally miserable? And how very cautious ought parents to be in urging a dutiful child to give her hand to a man when it is not an act of volition?

Whether or not the great number of miserable connections of this sort, which we

see are owing to the inconsistency of the laws of matrimony, perhaps, would not become a person of my youth and inexperience to give an opinion upon; but with all due submission to the Lords of the *creation*, I should suppose it the height of wisdom to organize this part of the system of jurisprudence, as conformable to the code of nature as possible—particularly as it is a subject that more materially concerns, than any other, their felicity as well as ours.

Forgive my friend this retrograde digression, and attribute it to the effusions of sensibility, and not to vanity. It is not my business to arraign the customs of the world; but it was impossible to avoid it under the influence of the present state of my mind.

You have only to take a view of the many instances of misery of this kind that have come under your notice, to feel the greatest abhorrence of the profanation which is every day marked with such distressing

treffing circumstances —— circumstances which depict with more energy, the absurdity of their cause, than could the most laboured animadversions.

You are perfectly happy, my dear friend, and I am sure you are better qualified to judge of my situation than I am myself.

Mr. S—— it is said is very opulent; but you know that men of experience say that the fortunes of speculative and enterprizing persons are always precarious; but such are the pecuniary distresses of my father, that I apprehend it will be impossible for me to avoid becoming a victim to his misfortunes.

It was this necessity which gave rise to my reflections upon the customs and laws of matrimony. Mr. S—— is a most agreeable man; but then I do not love him. Now in case I should marry him, it is very possible I might in time feel for him a more tender regard; but if he should prove less agreeable, I should, you know,

be condemned to perpetual misery; and certainly of all the different prostitutions those of the feelings are the most ignominious. And according to the present system, it is impossible for a woman of delicacy to be separated from her husband.

Not a line have I received from you since your arrival at Pittsburg, and I have only oral testimony that you are alive.

How has it happened that two beings who were once inseparable should be so long silent? If there is a fault, it must be on your side; for I did not know where to direct my letters. However I will forgive you upon the score of your lively attachment to the General, which I always thought would continue to increase, until your mind totally absorbed in your solicitude for him, would insensibly drown in oblivion the remembrance of your friends. But that heaven may preserve it, though I should be forgotten by my charming

ing W—— is the most ardent wish of your affectionate

L—— R——.

P. S. Miss G—— who returned from Philadelphia a few days since, says that the whole city talk of nothing but an English family which have emigrated to your country, in whose fortune every body appeared interested. Caroline the youngest daughter is spoken of as the most interesting creature that ever decorated our terrestrial orb — you will of course see them, and I pray that I may have your account of those amiable beings.

LET-

## LETTER VII.

*Mrs. W—— to Miss R——.*

Pittsburg, Sept.

MY DEAR R——,

I have this moment returned from my visit to the English family—I shall pass over the whole of them except the two girls, for as I can say nothing in their favour I think it most charitable to be silent.

The eldest of the Miss T——ns appears to be about twenty, is handsome, possesses a great share of vivacity, which I was not a little surprised at, considering her change of situation; particularly after so fatiguing a journey as they must have had over the mountain—She possesses all the external accomplishments of a fine woman, and is in

n short, that kind of being which is rather an ornament to a drawing-room, than an useful piece of furniture. But as the best criterion for us women to judge how far we are interesting objects, is that of the conduct of gentlemen towards us, I shall only remark that Arl-ton, who you know is a fine fellow, and who is perfectly domesticated in the family, while he treats her with the utmost politeness and attention, it is very observable it is without any other regard than what is due to every lady.

But what shall I say of the youngest, Caroline? How shall I find words to convey to you an adequate idea of so much perfection and loveliness? O that I had the talents of that poet who said of his mistress

“ That she was all that painters could express,  
Or youthful poets fancy when they love.”

Caroline appears to be about seventeen, is rather above the middle height, and is formed with that proportion which would have

have served for a model for even Praxilites, or any one of the Grecian Statuaries—She has light hair, fair and vivid complexion, an oval face, her nose is in the line of beauty, and long, full, blue eyes.

“ Of whose sweetness, no pencil’s power,  
The expression can declare;  
Their beams are gathered from her soul !!”.

But above all what makes her so very interesting is the peculiar elegance of her manners. There is a blandishment which accompanies every word she utters that goes directly to the heart; and when she listens to the conversation of others, there is a lustre and benignity in her face which warms into animation the most torpid; but when she moves the Graces seem to direct her every motion, and the radiance of her features express a divinity of soul, which makes her altogether the most interesting being I ever beheld.

From this description of so delightful a woman, was I a man, you might naturally conclude

conclude I was in love; for indeed it would be reasonable, as it would be impossible to be otherwise.

As far as I can learn their intention is to settle on a farm in the neighbourhood of this place; but as it is Mr. W——'s intention to go down to Louisville in the spring, I shall dissuade them, if possible, from settling in this country, and which I shall do from two motives; first, that of an interested one, as I should be happy to have near me such an amiable creature as Caroline—The next is more generous; for I find that most of the emigrants who arrive into this remote part of the world, proceed down the river to settle, on account of the greater fertility of the soil, and a more genial climate; which are reasons sufficient to prove that country is the most eligible for this family to live in.

What a cruel consideration it is my dear R—— that all sublunary happiness has its alloy. In following the fortune of a man

a man who I am attached to by every tie of which the human mind has a conception; that of mutual tenderness, affinity of manners, age, and in short, the *tout en semble* which constitutes the food of love, and which alone can give a zest to its raptures, I am removed so distantly from my next dearest friend.—And if I have found some consolation from so painful a circumstance in the delicate and affectionate manners of Mr. W—, who soothes my sorrows, by telling me, that for all my inquietudes he will amply compensate by his care and attention, I hope you will believe me when I assure you; that you are the second object of my heart.

Gracious heavens! when I reflect upon the distance which separates us, and contemplate the probable time before we meet again, how agonizing is the thought?

Could I but receive a letter from you, the prototype of my friend, it would once more brighten a prospect which will ever constitute

constitute a principal part of my happiness or misery; and in recognizing your animating sentiments I should still know you lived and loved your W—.

I know the distance between us, and the want of opportunities to forward letters are such that I cannot expect to hear often from you; but still I think the present interval the greater, as Capt. Arl-ton has informed me there are frequent opportunities of sending from Lancaster, and that by forwarding your letters by post to an acquaintance in that place, we might receive them regularly.

But *apropos*, I recollect you half promised you would pay a visit to me when I should be settled: now as I am settled for the present, I claim your promise; and the more earnestly, as if we go down to Louisville in the spring, the distance will be so great and the difficulty of returning so hazardous, that I could not expect you would fulfill your engagement.

The

The fatigue of travelling to this country is merely imaginary, and I am sure if you were to hear Miss Caroline T——n's description of the mountains and the beautiful landscapes upon the Susquehanna, you would be quite enchanted with the idea of taking such a journey.

I confess, though I had been highly delighted with the romantic and sublime scenes which were continually presented to my view as I came along, still I did not receive a just impression of their various beauties, untill this amiable girl depicted them in such glowing colours as made me think I must have been stupid not to have noticed them, and always with this delicate preface, you recollect such and such a place, which, confirmed my dulness, I had in many instances entirely overlooked.

However, sometimes I believe R——, when we have the prospect of our most substantial joys before us, we do not find those beauties in romantic scenes, nor feel those

those rapturous pleasures which many describe *when the pale light of the moon which shot through the spreading branches,* impending over the terrace walk, seems to sleep upon the couch of night; while planetary worlds moving in their different orbs with such wonderful harmony emit their twinkling rays, as if to cheer disconsolate lovers, or to assuage the sorrows of that bosom which pants to clasp some absent friend; nor do we find the same interest in the wonderful display of beauty with which the œconomy of nature every where abounds.

The theme is always elegant; and whenever I meet with genius capable of describing them, I am always delighted; but when a person has become a wife and mother, I think it is much more material to confine herself to real and substantial matters. Not that I disapprove of the indulgence of fancy in young minds; for I do not know of any thing which adds so much

much to the vivacity of youth, as it naturally tends to expand the heart and intellect, and ultimately produces a comprehension of ideas which renders the mind competent to engage in the most brilliant and copious conversations; and what makes such acquisitions the more estimable is, that colloquial talents are the most desirable accomplishments a woman of fashion can possess.

That accomplishment Miss Caroline possesses in a most eminent degree. And could I prevail upon my R—— to join our society which promises to become a charming one from the number of officers who are daily arriving, I think I should deserve a monument from the people for the happiness I had occasioned them.

Mr. W—— joins me in prayers for your happiness, and flatters himself you will not be able to withstand my importunities. He thinks it is a place of all others that both you and Mr. R—— would be pleased with,  
and

and he means to write to him shortly upon the subject.

Several of your friends have already arrived here, and more are daily expected; and there are a far greater number of objects to amuse an intelligent mind than either at Bristol or Philadelphia. Adieu! adieu! my charming friend, I expect every moment the Miss T---ns who promised to do us the honour to dine *en famille*. I am as usual,

Your's affectionately,

M. W---.

LETTER

## LETTER VIII.

*Capt. Arl-ton to Mr. Il-ray.*

Pittsburg, Sept.

MY DEAR IL-RAY,

MY anxiety was such to inform you of the safe arrival of the charming T—ns at this place, that I embraced the first opportunity to write to you on the subject, at which time, I was so hurried that I scarcely knew what I wrote.

Caroline, said I, it gives me much pain to see you walking over these rugged mountains, for surely you must find yourself very much fatigued; She replied no,—it was always a great pleasure for her to walk. You mean said I, interrupting her, when you have passed the laughing hours

"In

In groves where chirping birds, in wantonplay,  
Attuned to love, in frolic pass the day.

But that walking here was materially different from the pleasurable walks in shady groves, or the promenades of London. True, answered Caroline, it is very different; one has a continual sameness which insensibly produces *ennui*, and the others are generally so crowded, that it is quite impossible either to enjoy the charms of conversation, or the pleasure of walking. But here is a continual feast for the mind—every rock, every tree, every moss, from their novelty afford subject for contemplation and amusement. Look but at yonder towering hills, (pointing at the same time at a rocky ridge considerably above the others,) whose summits appear to prop the heavens, and then view the various symbols which their chasms produce, and what a sublime imagery does it afford?—What can more resemble the ruins of a great city?—That grand division which

rises higher upon the right, has the form and figure of a superb mosque—the left and various other divisions, that of palaces, temples, churches, streets, and squares, and you would suppose, if Pope had ever travelled this road, that he must have had the center division in his imagination, when he so beautifully described his temple of Fame.

Caroline might have proceeded in this way to eternity, and I should not have interrupted her; for such was my astonishment at the fertility of her imagination, that I heard her with amazement, and gazed at her with the most ineffable transports!

What, said she, observing my silence, have I been talking absurdly? Though indeed I apprehend that there is something very je-june and romantic in such fancies. No, by heavens! Caroline, said I, there can be nothing uninteresting, much less absurd in any thing that you can say; and if you have indulged your fancy, the theme

theme was sublime, and your imagination highly poetical. But when I recognize the delicacy of your frame—reflect upon those vicissitudes of fortune that have exposed you to these hardships, and attend to the amiable cheerfulness which gives a most lovely lustre to your beauty, I am lost in admiration.

Ha-hah! cried Caroline, stepping briskly forward at the same moment, we have lost sight of the waggon, and we must accelerate our movements, otherwise we shall not overtake them before the evening.

At that instant our ears were assailed with the tingling of bells, which the country people who pack their goods upon horses, to transport it over the mountain, put at their heads, to prevent their being lost in case they should stray out of the road.

In a few minutes a number of packers came in sight, when we stepped on one side of the road to leave them at liberty to

pafs. However they stopped, and after a short conversation had taken place, I told those honest people we were travelling to their country with a view to live among them. They answered, that they always were glad to have gentlefolks come among them, and that there had been many first and laſt; but the frequent Indian wars had always frightened them back again.

Pray, said Caroline, haſtily, there I hope are no Indians in these mountains? No, no, good Lady, ſaid the countrymen with one voice, there are not any within two hundred miles of us, and if there were, they ſhould not hurt you, for we would guard and protect you at the hazard of our lives.

You are very good, replied Caroline, ſome of you perhaps have lost a wife, a mother, or a child; for I am told that ſavages have no regard for age or ſex?

A venerable old man whose countenance commanded reſpect, and who had all this time been viewing Caroline with great attention,

tention, now with a heart overflowing with sorrow, and with the big tear starting in his eye, said we have all cause to mourn the havock of their depredations; but it is in looking forward that the human mind finds alleviation from the pangs of the afflicted bosom, and not in the retrospect, of the destruction of the tender blossoms of our fondest hopes. But when we behold the horizon of sorrow, (looking in Caroline's face,) gilded by so bright a sun, the tears of sadness will be exhaled, and the heaven of our hopes will be brightened into the meridian of joy. Forgive my charming girl this untimely effusion, continued the old man, seizing Caroline's hand, for I once was blessed in the possession of a woman, whose image is brought afresh to my recollection, by the recognition of that divinity which sparkles in your eyes; and if you will permit me sometimes to see you when I recross the mountain, it will make me happy, and I shall think myself highly honoured.

Caroline immediately gave him her name, which appeared to excite fresh emotions, and then informed him that she expected to be at Pittsburg, where she should be most happy to see him.

The old man took a most affectionate and respectful leave of us, when a young jolly lad of about eighteen years old, asked Caroline if she was my wife, and upon my answering in the negative, he requested also that he might be permitted to see her.

The packers cracked their whips, and went dancing on to the music of their bells, and we proceeded after the wagon, which they told us was near a mile ahead.

We had walked some distance without speaking one word, for we both seemed to be absorbed upon the adventures of the day, when Caroline said, do you not think Sir, this one adventure fully compensates for all the fatigue of walking? Indeed, said

said I, Miss Caroline, you are perfectly in the right; and I would rather walk one thousand miles than to have missed so interesting a circumstance. There was something, she replied, which bespoke the manners of a gentleman in the conversation of the old man, and said she should like to be made acquainted with the history of his life. I answered that I was of the same opinion, and recommended her to cultivate his acquaintance when he should return; for that both his address and language bespoke him a man of talents and education.

It was evening before we overtook the waggon, and to my great surprize, not one of the family expressed any joy at finding Caroline had arrived safe—which I am obliged to attribute to insensibility, for I am sure a more interesting being never existed.

During supper George complained of the accommodations, and thought it would be a wise plan in the government of Ame-

rica to establish great Inns at regular distances upon the mountain, which would be an inducement for people to emigrate and consequently tend to enhance the value of the waste land belonging to the federal empire. To which Mrs. T——n added, she thought his idea of turnpike roads ought to be first attended to:—true, replied George, but that is a matter of course.

Caroline during the course of the evening, endeavoured to relate the adventure with the packers, but not a soul would listen to her; and George having sarcastically observed, that it was not possible for her to have seen any thing but bears and wild animals, she was not a little affected by his contumely; and as I observed at the same time her emotions, I took an opportunity to relate how much I had been entertained with the beautiful ideas with which Caroline's imagination had furnished me, from her manner of describing the impending

pending cliffs of Chesnut mountain; and upon my attempting to relate them, he stopped me short, by saying he never knew before, that the Aborigines of America had been Mahometans, for that mosque was a Turkish temple.

This last attempt at wit quite disconcerted me, and as I felt myself not a little harrassed from having travelled two days and a night without rest, I apologized and retired.

Such my dear friend is the folly of a man, who I think you told me had received a courtly education.

That your social pleasures may be made perfect by the zest of fine women,

Is the wish of your's sincerely,

J——— ARLTON.

## LETTER IX.

*Mr. Il—ray to Capt. Arl—ton.*

Philadelphia.

MY DEAR JAMES,

I Had the pleasure of receiving your favour dated Pittsburg this morning, and found my anxiety much removed by hearing that you had overtaken and arrived safe with the T——ns.

I confess that I am much at a loss to guess what reason Caroline could have had, for undergoing so great a fatigue as it must have been to her to walk across the rugged Appalachean mountains,—except that it was compassion for the horses, which must have been greatly harraffed in climbing those hilly roads; and as I know her sensibility

bility is exquisitely fine, I should have determined that to have been the cause of it, if there was not something extremely enigmatical in the manner in which you tell me that you will inform me in your next,—until I receive which my curiosity will be quite awake.

I did not wonder in the least at the manner of your describing George's indolence; though I confess there is something very ludicrous, in the idea of a man's complaining of not being able to sleep, when travelling over the roughest road for a carriage perhaps npon the whole globe. But such is the insensibility of men educated in the manner that young man was, and as he appears so extraordinary a character to you, I will give you some of the particulars of the family, and his former life.

Mr. T——n as I told you in a former letter was an opulent Merchant in London, and Mrs. T——n being a woman of fashion,

had induced Mr. T——n to reside at the west end of the town, that is the court end, where she indulged in all the gaieties and extravagance of that great metropolis.

The idea of trade shocked her delicacy, and when she recognized the vulgar address of a citizen, she felt the most lively indignation at the thought that Mr. T——n's profession fixed such a stigma upon the family; and when the honest people to the east of Temple Bar used to call upon her, she was always denied being at home; and the more effectually to risque the name from the odium of being trade's-people, she determined that George should have a commission in the Horse Guards, which she supposed would lead her into the first and most fashionable circles.

Thus after having prodigally squandered in the indulgence of that kind of vanity the whole of Mr. T——n's estate, and entirely destroyed his credit among his city friends; but after George had for some time

time been enjoying that rank which gratified her ideal consequence, and indulging in all the folly and dissipation ever characteristic of the juvenile absurdities of young officers, they were reduced to the miserable situation in which you have seen them; George having been obliged to sell his commission some time before he left London to pay a debt, for which he had been arrested and confined.

Such my friend are the substance of those follies that have reduced a man whose business it has been said by unquestionable authority, was at one time worth ten thousand pounds annually. With a family beggared, and two amiable girls suffering all the tortures of disappointment, with the accumulated evil of being exiled into a wilderness—forgive me for repeating this idea; but when I reflect upon the vanity of a woman who regards more the allurements of variety, and the pageantry of fashion, than the future welfare of those beings

beings whom she has brought into the world, my indignation is for a time suspended by my wonder at such unnatural vices.

View the whole catalogue of crimes which degrade the human heart, and I defy you to fix upon one that is attended with such lamentable consequences as the profligacy of an unprincipled woman.

They commence their career, like the felon who first steals trifles, and which he presumes will not be missed; but as he becomes hardened he not only plunders promiscuously the necessitous, but he feels no compunction for having committed the most atrocious sacrilege.

Thus when a woman gives a loose to her desires, and no longer finds any charms from social intercourse, but eagerly looks for gratifications in the midnight orgies of female extravagance, what bounds can be fixed to their licentiousness?—a sacrilege against nature is the worst of sins.

Though there can be no extenuation for such

such unnatural folly, yet, let us in justice to female virtue examine into the cause productive of it, for their hearts are naturally formed for tenderness—there is a delicacy belonging to their nature that is peculiar to the softness of their sex—the lively animation which beans in their eyes at the tales of sorrow, or swells the pouting lip when the soul in the agonies of sympathy beats high to the calls of nature,—and the generous enthusiasm which kindles into rapture the coldest hearts, when they espouse the cause of the oppressed or unfortunate—all tend to prove that there is no turpitude belonging to them—and where shall we look for the cause of this depravity but in our institutions?—institutions the more ungenerous and tyrannic because the oppressed are not represented.

Unfeeling man! blush at that meanness which disgraces thy name and makes thee no better than a monster.

When

When heaven ordained for the particular purpose of carrying into execution the sublime object of the *Creator*, that there should be a difference of sex, how bountifully was the *goodness of Providence* displayed in the formation of woman—formed with all that beauty, with all that softness, with all that tenderness, and with all that brilliancy of sentiment, and vivacity of mind which is necessary to polish our manners, and sooth us in the lap of elegance and love, to a forgetfulness of all our mortifications

Beauty awakes, expands the glowing heart,  
And prompts the soul to act its noblest part;  
Warms it with pure Affection's kindling fire,  
Gives zest in love, and animates desire;  
Leads on to rapture, wakes Ambition's flame,  
And crowns the lover's brow with deathless fame.

This tenderness entitles them to our protection and utmost care—It is not sufficient

cient to say that while they demean themselves in a proper manner, they receive this protection—I deny it in toto.—Is it right for a man to insult a woman of spirit in the grossest manner with impunity?—Is it pardonable for a man to trample every day upon the sensibility of a delicate woman? What colour of excuse can be framed for condemning millions of them to suffer under the tyranny of the drunken or beastly caprices of men, or else forced into a life of prostitution, as ignominious as it is baneful to their health and constitution?

I should be glad to know what other alternative they have, according to the existing laws of all countries upon the face of the globe?

There is no reciprocity in the laws respecting matrimony. A man who is not comfortable at home, seeks abroad for those amusements which alone can compensate

pensate for domestic feuds; and should he transgress the bounds of that faith which he plighted at the alter of his religion, who is to call him to an account for his cupidity?

I beg that I may not be answered that the law in such cases have provided for the woman. That is of no avail in the argument. Every institution which is of a nature to act partially, is more odious than the most flagrant despotism.

But what is most inhuman, is that when a woman of honour and delicacy has been driven to seek for some mitigation of the sufferings of an afflicted bosom, in the friendship of an ingenuous heart, and when that friendship has led to more tender ties—ties which spring from the finest feelings, and which characterize the most humane and exalted souls, that she should be branded with contempt, and condemned to live in poverty, unnoticed, and unpitied.

Look

Look but at the numerous instances of this sort which disgrace the courts of Great Britain, and you must be shocked with the idea, that the most enlightened nation in the world, exercises the most inhuman and barbarous tyranny over those helpless beings, who have a claim upon our gratitude for our very existence, and whose weakness demands our most liberal support.

I have been so insensibly drawn into this length upon this very interesting subject, that I must take my leave of you for the present my friend, begging that you will commend me to the T——ns, and to General and Mrs. W——. Assure them that I wish much to visit them in their retirement, and as I have it in agitation to make a journey as far as the Illinois, in case I should perform it, I shall certainly take Pittsburg in my way.

Let me hear from you as often as you can

can meet with opportunities, for I find myself much interested in the welfare of the society with whom you are living.  
God bless you my dear James,

Farewell.

LETTER

## LETTER X.

*Miss R—— to Mrs. W——.*

Bristol, Oct.

MY DEAR W——,

I Have at length had the pleasure of receiving two of your letters dated Pittsburg which convinces me you must be here; otherwise the vivacity with which you write would have induced me to believe you could not have changed your situation from the elegance that surrounded you in Philadelphia, to that sequestration in which you must now live. However it proves to me that you are perfectly happy, at which, believe me when I say, I rejoice.

Not

Not a word have you said of your journey, or of your situation; nor in short of any one thing concerning yourself.

How amiable do you always appear? the changes of fortune seem not in the least to affect your spirits—but you are the same charming creature in retirement, that you were when you graced the fashionable parties of our metropolis.

Every thing you can write must always prove interesting to me; but when my heart overflows with tenderness, at the recollection of the many hours that have so rapidly glided away, when we together in youthful pastime cemented the most lively friendship, and which was prolonged by your ever endearing virtues, I feel an indifference at the absurdities of Dr. K,—however ludicrous they may have been.

It is a misfortune that a man who possesses so many good qualities as the Doctor is said to do, and with abilities so eminent, should be so very eccentric.

I have

I have heard of many extravagant things of his committing which at first used to excite my wonder, but I have been told they were the result of affectation, when they excited my abhorrence and disgust.

The follies of young men, and the oddities of fools deserve great allowance; for while one proceeds from an injudicious education, the other is the effect of weakness which ought to be pitied;—but when man who has a knowledge of the world, and is acquainted with good manners, in contempt of the rules of society violates every principle of decorum, merely because he has the reputation of being an odd man, I think he ought to be banished from genteel company, however brilliant his wit; or I know of no compensation that can be made for rudeness.

Capt. C——'s humour I have always understood was irresistible; but I think there was a breach of confidence in relating

ting a private conversation that passed between him and his friend, and which I cannot conceive it was necessary to expose in order to laugh the Doctor out of the folly of wishing to marry the widow.

There appears to be something so sacred in a confidential conversation, that nothing short of the danger of a man's country, or a wicked conspiracy, ought to prompt any person to expose it. Indeed to repeat trifles which have passed between two persons, who are in the habits of intimacy, that have been uttered at an unguarded moment, or when we have been indulging those little weaknesses which are gratifications to the mind, is always a proof to me, that the person who does it wants delicacy of sentiment. But when a friend has laid open his little vanities, or expressed his weakness, perhaps when his heart was overflowing in the effusions of his philanthropy, and has had those social feelings made a subject of merriment for his friends,

friends, I declare I think such a breach highly reprehensible. Capt. C——'s motive may have been laudable, but I cannot perceive how it was auxiliary to the purpose.

One of the greatest pleasures, perhaps, which can be derived from the emanations of friendship, is the satisfaction we experience when we lay open, naked as it were, our very hearts to the inspections of those we love; and if weakness or vanity was a very uncommon thing, I should not wonder when people laugh at such expositions; though it is rather extraordinary, nay, it is mean, to be merry at circumstances, which were they brought home to ourselves would make us angry.

However the misfortune is, that Voltaire was in the right, when he said, that "friendship is a tacit contract between two sensible and virtuous persons; I say sensible, for a monk, a hermit, may not be wicked, yet live a stranger to friendship:

“ I add virtuous, for the wicked only have  
“ accomplices; the voluptuous have compa-  
“ nions, the designing have associates, the  
“ men of business have partners, the politi-  
“ cians form a factious band; the bulk of  
“ idle men have connections, princes have  
“ courtiers:—but virtuous men alone have  
“ friends. Cethegus was Cataline’s ac-  
“ complices, and Mæcenas was Octavius’s  
“ courtier; but Cicero was the friend of  
“ Atticus.”

Every day brings me fresh and additional cause to lament the loss of your society my charming friend. Enveloped as I am with difficulties, my mind is almost distractèd—I see nothing but precipices on every side of me—with a mind labouring to act right, I have not energy left to act in any manner or shape; and I begin to tremble at the thoughts of what I foretold in a former letter was just; i. e. of falling a victim to the misfortunes of my affectionate father. The rapid hours which used

to gild my every wish, now bring nothing but tidings of sorrow and wretchedness; and the period is advancing with colossian strides, when my aged and unhappy parent will be arrested for a debt which it will be impossible for him to pay; and that is another of the miseries brought upon himself by his over generous support of a worthless brother.

What would I give could I but have the advice of my beloved W——, in this delicate posture of affairs? But I cannot bear the thoughts of my dear father lingering in a prison; and that gratitude I owe him for his many kindnesses, independent of the ties of nature, I begin to think will oblige me to accept of the hand of Mr. S——. Great God! I shudder at the hought:—for though I am sensible I can make him a prudent wife, yet I confess I am shocked at myself, for even thinking to marry a man from necessity, whom I would not think of under any other circumstances;

and which I conceive would be treating him ill. But such is the infatuation of some men, that they cannot see the most glaring truths.

However, I am determined if he should continue to urge me upon the subject, that I will candidly tell him, nothing could induce me to have him but the situation of my father; and I think after such an ingenuous declaration, if he should still persist in his wish to marry me, he will never afterwards have a right to upbraid me for duplicity.

I cannot help making a reflection here upon what is termed generosity. When a man has prodigally squandered his property, and has been frequently supported by his friends, and has as frequently involved himself in fresh trouble, it is so far from being generous in them to support him, that it is a weakness, nay, criminal, when it eventually may entail misery upon a rising progeny, who certainly

re intitled to the first care of their pa-  
ents.

Such you know my dear W—— has  
een the conduct of my father, that all his  
isappointments in life have flowed from  
he source of his brother's extravagance.

Adieu W——, forgive me for troub-  
ng you with so tedious an account of my  
istresses ; but I promise if ever I regain  
y cheerfulness, to make you amends for  
his dolorous epistle.

Commend me to the General, and assure  
ne English family, that I envy you the  
leasure of their society ; and if I had been  
o fortunate as to have met them, I should  
ave used my endeavours to have induced  
hem to settle at Bristol. God bless you my  
riend, and believe

I am sincerely yours, &c.

L—— R——.

## LETTER XI.

*Caroline T——n to Mrs. F——.*

Pittsburg, Oct.

MY DEAR SISTER,

FROM the recollection of our infancy, and recounting the joys which have flowed from our kindred nature in our infant pastimes and pleasures, how affliction is it to a bosom which still retains the most animated recollection of those fleeting moments, and which finds from so severe a dereliction, not a ray of hope ever again that I can embrace my Eliza—the companion of my youth, the partner of my sorrows;—but above all the tutelary guardian of my unsuspecting nature.

The fates, who are said to preside over our fortune and lives, seem to have acted in

n our destination as if prodigally sporting  
with the feelings of humanity—we are  
placed almost at opposite sides of the globe,  
and when I stand most in need of your  
consolation and advice, I apprehend I have  
lost you for ever. The thought is too  
poignant, I must give vent to my sor-  
row!—O could I see but one vista  
through which the rays of hope could shoot  
her golden beams, as you have seen the  
orient sun pierce through the avenue of a  
beauteous grove, and gild the distant plains,  
I should not have this sadness which op-  
presses my heart, and makes me feel a  
*presentiment* that——but I will not name it  
—for whatever may be the fate of your  
Caroline, be assured she will never err but  
in judgment.

Forgive my dear Eliza this incoherent  
preface, and I will endeavour to regain  
my recollection, and then I will give you  
some account of our journey, reserving the  
particulars of it for a journal which I

shall send you as soon as I have finished it, with an account of our present situation.

After leaving Philadelphia, passing Lancaster, a place that would be considered as a large inland town in any part of Europe, untill we arrived at the Susquehanna, we found the country well settled, with little variation. The roads were much better than they had been represented to us, and the Inns every where, were supplied with the greatest plenty of provisions of all sorts, which were very cheap, and the people remarkably civil.

The Susquehanna is one of those immense rivers with which this large continent abounds. From its sources which are in the Apalachean mountains, it traverses great part of Pennsylvania, and then stretching to the southward empties itself into the bay of Chesapeak. Where we crossed it, which it is said is nearly fifty leagues from its mouth, taking its meandering course,

it

it is about twice the width of the Thames at Westminster-bridge, with high impending banks that rudely seem to threaten its limpid stream, as though they were jealous of such attracting beauty; and first gives you an idea of the savage wildness of that region you are obliged to travel through in your way, from thence to this place.

After journeying for ten days we arrived at the foot of the mountain, where we rested for part of a day; and laid in at the same time provisions to supply us until we should arrive on the opposite side; for we were told, it would be very difficult to procure them, after we left the flat country; and as we were under the direction of our waggoner, who was something of a despot, we were obliged to proceed almost at evening, and had ascended but a few miles when we stopped at a cabin on the road side, where we slept that night.

I had previously made up my mind upon walking over the mountain, which is about fifty miles across, from the opinion that there must be many interesting views on the way, as I should loose them in case I kept my seat in the waggon, which was not only uncomfortable from being crowded with our little furniture, but the roughness of the road made it very unpleasant to ride; besides, I could not bare to see the poor horses tugging up the almost perpendicular hills, a load that was almost too great for them, when I was so capable of walking; and regardless of any consideration but these objects, after the waggon had proceeded the next morning, which was immediately after the break of day, I followed, and after having travelled about two miles, finding myself fatigued I had sat down upon a rock that was covered with green moss to rest, when I was alarmed by a gentleman who appeared to be a cavillier, who had thrown himself from his horse,

before I had time to recollect myself; and announcing the name of Arl-ton, I instantly remembered that our friend Mr. Il-ray, had mentioned that such a person was going to Pittsburg, and that he was a particular friend of his, whom he should take the liberty of recommending to us.

At this time the waggon had got some distance a-head, but I did not stand to look much about me, for fear Capt. Arl-ton would believe me romantic. We soon recovered the lost distance; and after travelling a little farther we stopped to breakfast, at which time our fellow traveller, I apprehend, gave orders to his servants, who went forward to make the necessary preparations to accomodate us; for we ever afterwards found the most ample supplies of provisions at every stage, and every thing arraigned in the most comfortable manner the nature of things would permit.

When I came to the spot which was made memorable by the defeat of the gallant Braddock, how did my heart beat at contemplating the sepulchres of so many brave Englishmen!—How rapidly did my imagination traverse back again the immense distance, and to the period of time when so many mothers mourned for the loss of a son! When the son grieved for the loss of a father—and when perhaps the tender sentiments of many beautiful and fond girls, which had been fostered by the persuasive insinuations of elegant manners, and a suavity of disposition, were withered in the bud, and those fantasies of pleasure that warms into enthusiasm the ardency of youth, then changed into luftiferous complaints, from those deadly schisms?

Gracious heaven! thought I, how wonderful are the vicissitudes of our fortune? But how much more wonderful must be the versatility of the human heart, to be enabled to bear up against the repeated disappointments,

appointments, which we meet with in this world?

I had began to philosophize when my fellow traveller, (for Capt. Arl-ton persisted in walking with me,) who had been giving me an account of the action, observed the situation of my mind; said, as the wars were all over, it was not a time to look at human distresses, and that the season of our happiness was too much abridged by our very nature, to suffer us with impunity to make a wanton sacrifice of time; and repeated at the same instant those beautiful lines out of Tasso,

“ In vain the spring returns, the spring no more,  
Can waning youth to former prime restore;  
Then crop the morning rose, the time improve,  
And while to love ’tis giv’n, indulge in love.”

Taking hold of my hand as he continued, said he, Caroline I am afraid, seeing the effect which this spot has had upon your sensibility, that you must have lost in that unfor-

unfortunate battle some relation or friend. I told him none that I knew of, and I then informed him of our misfortune in the loss of our uncle. He seeing the tears start afresh in my eyes, took his handkerchief and dried them, saying, that it was probable he might be still living, as we never had a confirmation of his death ; and then endeavoured to console me, by observing we should arrive in a short time at Pittsburg, when there would be an end to all my fatigues, and hoped to all my sorrows : but, said he, Caroline, was it not compassion for your delicate limbs, I should wish the journey had been twice as long.

I must give you some account, my dear sister, of this very interesting young man; for I am sure did you know how much we are obliged to him for his very great and many civilities, I am sensible you would join with me in his eulogium, though nature has been so bountiful to him, that he stands in no need of it.

His

His parents were Europeans, but he was born on the shores of Columbia ; and when the late unhappy war commenced, I have been told by General W—— he was not then sixteen years old; but that his father could not prevent him from entering into the service of his country, and as his youth did not intitle him to a commission, for it was not here as it is in England, *officers were wanted for actual service*, he was obliged to enter a cadet, in which capacity he distinguished himself upon several occasions, and in the course of a very short time he was made an officer of dragoons, which station he filled with the greatest honour, and in the course of his second campaign he arrived at the rank of Captain, when he was not eighteen; and was ever afterwards looked upon as one of the most heroic soldiers in the American army.

He appears now to be about two and twenty, has a ruddy complexion, with full blue

blue eyes, which are always very animated — his countenance is open and manly, and when he talks to men he appears perfectly frank and ingenuous; but when he addresses a lady he does it with the greatest diffidence, and distant politeness; except it is those with whom he is very intimate, when he is occasionally highly facetious and entertaining.

His figure is very graceful, it being about five feet nine or ten inches high, well proportioned, and he seems to possess surprizing activity. But he has a delicacy of manners and ideas that exceed all praise, which in pecuniary matters reflects the highest lustre upon his munificence.

Such my dear sister are the material circumstances that attended our journey, which we finished in about fifteen days from the time we left Philadelphia; and as I shall have an opportunity of writing again in a few days by George, who returns I have just been informed for the little gold  
my

my father left in a bank at Philadelphia, I shall reserve my account of this place and its inhabitants for my next. In the mean time if this should get safe to your hands, you will know that we are in perfect health, and are in other respects as well as possible, every thing considered.

We all wish to embrace you, Eliza, and once more experience that supreme joy which flows from the endearments of kindred souls! Farewell! You will naturally conclude that as George returns to Philadelphia for the money, that it is my father's intention to purchase a farm, when Mary and myself, I conclude, will appear clad in the garb, and with the habiliments of milk maids, and I flatter myself we shall act our parts much better, than the feigned milk girls who often appear at masquerades. God bless you : Eliza, and remember your affectionate,

CAROLINE.

P. S. Mention us kindly to Mr. F—.

LET-

## LETTER XII.

*Miss W——— to Mrs. R———.*

Pittsburg, Oct.

IN the changes of fortune, in the disappointments of our lives, but above all in that delicate and perilous situation which the letter of my dear R——— tells me that she is in, how much do we stand in need of the advice and solace of our friends?

The vivacity of unthinking youth sometimes dissipates in the allurements of variety all its mortifications. Hurried on by the splendour of pleasures, the warmth of their imaginations continues to search for that elysium, which recedes from their avidity to grasp it, as the ignis fatuus diverts the benighted traveller.—But the sensible mind feels

feels too poignantly the various ties of nature to be able soon to forget its former attachments; and though such affections may give much pain to the heart that possesses them, still it is the only esteem which is worth preserving.

We are by nature sociable beings, and the only permanent pleasure we can enjoy is by our conduct, first to deserve the love of our friends, and then to be sure that we possess it. In which situation it is impossible to be miserable—when our joys—when our pains—when our comforts,—and when our fortunes are reciprocally experienced, they are necessarily heightened or mitigated by the specific influence which a cordial sympathy has upon human actions. It is thus, that I feel all the horrors for your situation, as effectually as if I was myself the devoted victim.

I know your heart well, my charming R—, I know what were your sensations when I was in less danger—I remember  
(great

(great God! the thought still chills my whole frame) when it was reported that Mr. W— was killed at Saratoga.—Who could have taken a more sensible interest in another's fortune and wretchedness than you did in mine?—Your gentle and endearing behaviour then made impressions which no time or circumstances can ever expunge from my heart.—Fly then my beloved R— to this place, and let me clasp you to my arms, and soothe you to a forgetfulness of all your past miseries.—Come and add one to our little society, who all wish for the addition of you to make their circle compleat.—I have said so much of you that Miss Caroline T——n is quite delighted with your image.—Come to these Arcadian regions where there is room for millions, and where the stings of outrageous fortune cannot reach you—recollect our girlish pastimes, for I now appeal to that friendship which was cemented at so early a period of our lives, and which you have touched

touched upon so pathetically in your charming letter.—I conjure you by all the sacred ties which bind two hearts, that are in unison with each other.—I conjure you by the principles of pride, and the ties of honour, which I know you would preserve even at the expence of your life.—Remember that you have made the subject of our friendship your peculiar boast, and that after such declarations you cannot violate its sacred fire with impunity; and dreading that delays might prove dangerous Mr. W—— will send this post by his trusty old servant Terpin, for fear that in the hour of desperation you may be driven to an extremity which it would not be easy to remove; and to assure you of his cordial regard, he has insisted upon finishing this letter.

Mrs. W—— had written thus far my charming Laura when I requested I might be permitted to finish her letter.

I shall not repeat her importunities; but I well know the obligations I am under to you; and as you profess ever to deal upon terms of reciprocity, I demand that her request be complied with; and the more readily to carry it into execution, and at the same time to return in a very small degree the obligations I am under to you for your support and care of Mrs. W— when she suffered so much on my account, and for which I have ever since been your debtor, I beg that you will take no other notice of the inclosed than to appropriate it to the purposes necessary to make your generous and affectionate father easy as to his penal engagements; and if it is consistent with his safety, considering his infirmities, which I know are considerable, to remove him to this country, where I will take care that every thing is provided against his arrival.

Let me warn you against being fastidious, or governed by the notoriety of some  
of

of my past follies, which has led the world to believe that I am necessitous.

I am not rich it is true;—but what I offer I can't spare without any disadvantage to my family.—You know my dear Laura, that my attachment for your friend was always of the most lively nature, and if during the ebullitions of a heated imagination, which hymeneal raptures produced in my fond attachment for my dear Maria, exceeded the bounds of moderation, still I was ever too tenderly alive to her delicacy and honour, ever to suffer my indiscretions to transgres those limits, when fortune is almost irretrievable, and which never fails to lead to servility and contempt.

As I never was a man of large fortune, and as I had squandered much of what I possessed in the service of my country, I always looked upon this country, as an eligible retreat for such people, whose pure and refined sense of their own dignity, would



would not permit to brook the arrogance of supercilious upstarts, and purse-proud knaves. And knowing that Maria was formed for domestic happiness, there seemed to be nothing wanting to carry my plan into execution but the difficulty of tearing her from her friends. It was a severe task;—but the prosperity of my family, and the support of her delicacy, as well as my own sensibility, demanded my exertions. You my friend recollect the struggles she had to part from your arms, and in that recollection I presume you will find as lively a pleasure in the thoughts of returning to them, as you then experienced pain.

When the fate of two people are so nicely interwoven as yours and Maria's appears to be, it seems to me, that no argument can resist the energy with which this demand is made.

I have put myself out of the question in order that I may be considered a more  
faithfu

fathful steward to Maria, and flattered in the hope, that you cannot make any resistance to a requisition which is an emphatical call upon the sincerity of your friendship for us, I shall begin immediately to make such arrangements, as will secure us all that felicity, which can flow from a society that will be made perfectly lovely, by the acquisition of a being so amiable.

Mrs. W—— has mentioned to you the English family—never was there a more interesting creature than the youngest—you have a pleasure to come in being made acquainted with her. In short, you will find every thing here, that a mind like yours wants to make it perfectly at ease. Such are the prayers, intreaties, and demands of your

Sincere and affectionate friends,

JAMES and MARIA W——.

## LETTER XIII.

*Capt. Arl-ton to Mr. Il-ray.*

Pittsburg, Aug.

I Have at length had the pleasure to recognize my dear Il-ray, those sentiments in your favour dated which ever characterizes the warmth of your philanthropy.

Caroline is above the affectation of tenderness to dumb creatures. She thinks that the exercise of those feelings and not the parade of them, the only criterion by which we can form an adequate idea of a lively sensibility; and that however much we may attempt to acquire a surreptitious reputation for goodness, it only amounts to deceiving ourselves; for the discerning part of the world will always see through

through the yell, and consequently never fail to expose the hypocrisy.

I think it was an expression of the celebrated Rochefoucauld, "That persons are never so liable to be deceived as when they are endeavouring to deceive others." But I am convinced Caroline was never obliged to recollect that reflection, to put her upon her guard: Her goodness is innate, and emanates from a soul which is as pure as the snow that covers the regions of the polar circle, but as warm as the genial clime of the torrid zone. *I confess I admire you*

I confess I admire your sentiments respecting the laws of matrimony, and have often wondered that an enlightened world permitted such barbarous codes to exist; for while the aggrandizement of families, has been relevant to the continuation of the institutions of the Goths and Vandals, the sacrifice of human victims has been considered as necessary to the security of

states. Great God! how preposterous is the thought?

The inconveniences that have been felt by society, emphatically call for a reform in those institutions, which so materially concern our felicity in this world. But while I deprecate their continuance, I lament that the amelioration of manners is so extremely slow, that the tendency of this pernicious system, will yet poison the happiness of some millions of human beings, who possess all the social virtues necessary to enliven sublunary joys. And which instead of making the world a scene of gloom and sadness, would give a cheerfulness to mortals of every description, that would add a lustre to the dignity of man, of the most captivating kind.

You have touched upon the subject with such pathos and candour, that I never shall cease to admire the warmth with which you espouse the cause of oppressed women.

When

When I reflect upon their delicacy and tenderness, and recollect their oppressions, I feel the keenest indignation against brutish legislators, who have trampled upon sentiment, gratitude, love, and every other quality of the human soul, which has given to man the rank he enjoys in the link of the creation; and which they dared not to have done, but from the impunity power has given them, and which makes it the more base and daftardly.

To what a state of degradation is the human heart reduced, when it is obliged to have recourse to all the cunning and stratagem that it can devise, to obtain those gratifications not only essential to the existence of our species; but which flow from the essence of the human soul, and of which, were we deprived, it would place us upon a level with the brute creation.

Come my friend! and enjoy this delectable spot,  
Where Peace spreads her mantle to shelter my cot,

Where Health on the wings of Zephyrus resorts,  
To deal us those raptures unequal'd in courts;  
While the East beams effulgent as Time wakes  
the morn,  
To cheer my brown reapers, breast-high in the  
corn.

Where at noon, O! for words to express the serene,  
The pencil of Claud had improv'd from the scene,  
Where the rills blithe meandering chequer the  
plain,  
And Paradise lives for its mortals again :  
Where ten thousand bright objects, combin'd  
swell th' whole,  
While the music of Nature enraptures the foul.

To this peaceable spot my dear friend come away,  
Leave the artful in towns on each other to prey:  
Here fair Liberality cultures the farm,  
As the sonnets of Reason she warbles to charm ;  
Come haste and partake of this fund of delight,  
And friendship shall season the goblet at night.

Here you may appropriate your talents  
for the benefit of mankind, and not waste  
them in idle speculation—here you will  
find a new creation bursting from the shades  
of

of wildness into a populous state;—and here is the country where the foundation must be laid for the renovation of those privileges, which have decayed under the influence of the most capricious and violent despotism. Nay which have been trampled upon, while the softer sex have lost half of that loveliness in losing their sincerity, which so peculiarly enhances the value of life.

I have mentioned to Caroline your intention of passing this place on your way to the Illinois. She was quite delighted at the thought of seeing you, and hopes that you will so contrive it, as to be able to spend some time with us.

Let me advise you to bring with you some fishing tackle, for I was in so much haste when I left Baltimore, that I did not procure an assortment by any means equal to the variety of fishing the rivers of this country afford—you will be in good time for the trout season, and Caroline is much

flattered with the expectations of those pleasures which such recreation will produce her, particularly with the addition of your company.

You know that Mary is too much of a fine lady to move, except when she is compelled to do it, and as Mrs. W——'s mornings are continually occupied with her domestic concerns, Caroline has been obliged to look out for a female companion to attend her in her little excursions in the neighbourhood, in order to view the various prospects and wild beauties with which it abounds.

In one of these peregrinations in the course of this day, and in which she was attended by her female companion Capt. C—— and myself upon the banks of the Allegany river, just as we were viewing some laurels that garnish an impending rock hanging over the river, two Indian men and an Indian woman came suddenly upon us.

I was

I was at that moment pointing at a chasm in the rock which resembles the cell of a hermit; but Caroline catching a glance of them first, screamed out, and fainted.—C—— and the other lady was at that instant not in sight. I had only time to catch her in my arms before she fell.

In that situation was your friend for some minutes, regardless of every consideration, but protecting so much beauty and innocence.

Cowards are ever brave when there is no danger; but if you will forgive me, I had determined they should first pierce my body before they should profane the holy rights of humanity, in the sacrilege of murdering so much divinity.

Here I felt all the torrent of emotions which at once confounds the imagination; but intent upon nothing but shielding this fair creature, and watching for signs of returning life, I had not discovered that the men had approached close to us; and I

was first apprized of it, by their asking me if they could be of any assistance to Caroline, and saying they were very sorry they had alarmed so pretty woman, for that was their expression. And then saying to me, Brother, if we have been your worst foes in war, we will be your best friends in peace, and that they were going to Pittsburg for the purpose of burying the hatchet, that white people and Indians might live together like brothers.

Caroline began now to recover, and as she saw there was no danger, she immediately resumed her cheerfulness, and apologized for having been so weak. I told her it was very natural, particularly after the adventure with the old man in the mountain; and as there was not yet a peace between the Indians and us, that at first, I had my apprehensions.

It was at that moment when after her animal spirits had ceased to flow, and when they were returning with accelerated quick-nefs,

ness, that the mild lustre of so much beauty and conscious innocence, warmed the celestial fire of love into the most unbounded admiration. I felt for the first time in my life, my powers of utterance suspended—I felt in the returning pulsations of her hand, the high beating tones of Nature vibrate through every part of my frame; and in this ecstatic moment, when language was mute, and when Caroline's eyes spoke the most ineffable things, I was lost in the elysium of intoxicated desire.

At length recovering, said I, Caroline, had it been possible to have gazed upon your various charms with indifference, this interesting minute would have fixed my fate for ever. Then pressing her hand with both mine—and going to proceed, C—— and the other lady came up. I took an opportunity of relating to them the effects the seeing the Indians had upon Caroline, which I flatter myself appeared a sufficient cause for the confusion

I was in. The Indians bore testimony for the truth of what I had said, and repeating their concern for what had happened, when we all posted together for town ; assuring our new company that the fright proceeded from the lady's not being accustomed to such sights ; and Caroline added, that, she hoped to become better acquainted with their nations, and which she should the more eagerly wish, as their motives appeared to be so conciliatory.

Such, my dear friend, have been the consequences of my acquaintance with this charming girl. God knows were it will end !—I dread the approach of winter, as it will prevent our walks in future ; and it will be almost impossible from the situation of the family, for me to have an opportunity to enjoy the only pleasure of which my distracted mind is susceptible.

As you esteem your friend, fix an early period to set out upon your intended journey, that I may have the pleasure of the conversation

conversation of a man who I have so long regarded. Hasten to this interesting place—we all wish for you, and shall think the hours sleep on their way untill you arrive. Adieu my friend, it is now past three A. M. and I have no thought of repose—indeed it will be impossible for me to sleep after so interesting an event—an event on which hangs my future fate, until I have seen the lovely Caroline, and heard the sweet music of her voice.

I am truly yours,

LET-

## LETTER XIV.

*Miss Caroline to Mrs. F—.*

Pittsburg, Oct.

MY DEAR SISTER,

AS George sets out this evening for Philadelphia, I embrace with the greatest pleasure the opportunity of complying with my promise.

Every season has its charms, and every pleasure its alloy; but I shall ever feel the sensations of sorrow when I look toward the east, particularly as it will always afford me the image of my kind Eliza, in a distant prospective; and while my heart eagerly pants after the substance, I shall be tantalized with the shadow.

O cruel fate! how hard is the situation of poor Caroline?—Every day brings fresh

proofs to her that the loss of her Eliza is irreparable.

There is something in the decrees of heaven which forbids us to examine too nicely into the object of Providence; but how can I forbear complaining, when I seem to stand insulated and deserted, at a time I want most the advice and support of my once kind protectress?

O Eliza! how shall I tell you?—my innocent heart diffuses the crimson over my face at the very thought—There was something too interesting, at the first sight of Capt. Arl-ton, for me, not to feel the most lively emotions;—but the time and place of his overtaking me, and his manner of assisting our helpless family, so conspired to make impressions upon my fond foolish heart, that it has ever since caused me considerable uneasiness; but what I have most cause to lament is of a very recent date.

Walking has hitherto formed my principal amusement, and as I had been taking a view

a view of some of the picturesque scenes of this romantic country, accompanied by a female companion, Capt. Arl-ton and his friend, on our return I was alarmed at the sight of three of the natives, which quite overcame me; and when I recovered I found myself in the arms of Capt. Arl-ton, and frightened as I was, I could discover all the signs of folicitude and anxiety, so strongly pourtrayed in his countenance, that it was impossible for me to mistake the emotions of his heart.—His full eyes seemed to have caught the flame of sympathy, and emitted such a radiance of expression and tenderneſs, that I am afraid my feelings, which were in unifon with nature, and ever true to the dictates of gratitude, which I felt anew for his attempt to preserve me against the fury of the sanguinary Indians, be trayed the ſituation of my heart; for he ſcarcely allowing me time to recover, he declared in the most ardent manner the exiſtence of his paſſion.

Heavens!

Heavens! how was my soul agitated between hope and fear? but fortunately our company coming up before I had time to have spoken, which would have been impossible, my embarrassment in a degree subsided: and in that situation I returned home, and have ever since, more from anxiety than from any harm I experienced from my fright, been obliged to keep my room. He has been several times to enquire after my health, and has sent his servant much oftener.—He came this morning and insisted upon seeing me, and told Mary that it was unkind to deny him that satisfaction, after the intimacy which had for some time subsisted between him and our family; particularly since he had been my fellow traveller.—But recollecting himself he begged pardon if there was an impropriety in the request, and said he presumed I was not confined to my bed; and as Mary formally assured him that provided I was better in the evening he should be permitted to

to see me; I am afraid, it gave him offence. For she says he departed with signs of displeasure.

Mary is at a loss to know what to make of such rudeness, for such she terms it, and you know, my dear Eliza, that there is so little affinity of disposition between us, that it is impossible for me to communicate to her the real cause of his importunities. However, you know that she possesses all that kind of penetration which is necessary to develope such mysteries—I both fear and wish for the *rencontre* this evening, but as Mary will be sure to be *present* I hope to be collected.

I find, as usual, I have wandered from the subject I intended to have began; but I know you will forgive the egotism after so ingenuous a confession; but not to have made it to you, my Eliza, would have been criminal.—Would to God it could have been oral! and when I again clasped you to my tender heart, you would be sensible

sible how much I love you—but avaunt, treason!—I will not doubt your confidence in that; but let me pray that you will continue to love your Caroline as usual.

Now for Pittsburg and its inhabitants.—How shall I talk of things which are inanimate or indifferent?—But I will rouse my senses from their torpor, for every thing here is interesting, and many of the citizens are amiable, and possess the most exalted virtues.

Pittsburg stands in the fork of the Alleghany and Monongahala rivers, which intermingle their waters, and form the Ohio—Ohio, in the Indian language signifies fair, and perhaps nothing can be more applicable than the name of this beautiful river.

The Monongahala is about the breadth of the Thames at London,—its current gentle,—its waters limpid,—and its banks on the opposite shore are high and steep, which are said to be a body of coal, and for

many

many years were on fire, which exhibited the image of a Volcano.

The Allegany is not so broad as the Monongahala, but its current is much more impetuous, and from the fierceness of its aspect, and the wildness which lowers over its banks, it appears to be what it really is, the line between civilization and barbarism. So that you see, my dear Sister, I have passed from the most populous city in the world—a city embellished with all the beauty that art and ingenuity can furnish, and which the accumulated industry of ages have produced, to the remote corner of the empire of reason and science.

But here are charms as well as at masquerades, opéras, or the dusty rides in Hyde Park.—Here is a continual feast for the imagination—here every thing is new, and when you contemplate a frowning wilderness, and view the shades or gradations of the polish of manners, which the blandishments of science has produced, and then

compare

compare this scene with what must have been the state of Great Britain, and the manners of the Aborigines of that island, when it was first invaded by the more polished Romans, what a comprehensive and sublime subject is it for the human mind? How familiar does it make you with the appearance of things at an event so remote, and to form an adequate idea of which, requires a scene like this? and in what an estimable point of view does it place those geniuses, who by their labour and talents have produced the astonishing contrast?—I must pause for a moment at the stupendous thought.

On one side of us lie the wild regions of the Indian country; on the other our prospect is obstructed by the high banks of the Monongahala, beyond which lies a beautiful country that is well peopled and cultivated—behind us a considerable plain that is laid out in orchards and gardens, and which yields a profusion of delicious fruits,  
—and

—and in our front the Ohio displays the most captivating beauty, and after shooting forward for about a mile it abruptly turns round a high and projecting point, as if conscious of its charms, and as if done with an intent to elude the enraptured sight.

From the various picturesque scenes with which this country abounds, I have derived the most lively amusements; and perhaps they have been made more agreeable from my having been continually attended by Capt. Arl-ton, which gave a zest to them, without my being sensible of the cause.

I will not fatigue your attention by repeating the whole history of this place; but you may recollect it was a fort erected previous to the last war by the French called fort Du Quesne, and was taken by the British forces in the course of that war—since which period it has been a garrisoned town by the name of Fort Pitt, or Pittsburg, in honour of the splendid virtues and talents

talents of that great man, during whose administration it was taken.

The Americans keep a considerable force at this place, and as it is the rendezvous for a great number of emigrants, who are continually passing down the Ohio, it affords a great variety in our society.

But I must tell you of two accomplished and amiable beings, whose virtues and goodness would serve as a patron for half the world. General W—— had felt a juvenile tenderness for his lady, and had given every proof of it during his services in the army, and after having acquired much honour at Saratoga in actions fought against our brave and unfortunate forces, he returned with his brows incircled with laurels, to repose in the bosom of love, after the fatigues and perils of three campaigns.

During his first overtures which were made upon the eve of that ill-fated war,  
she

she wrote a sonnet, in which she chided him in so delicate a manner, yet so pathetically, that I will transcribe a part of it, as it will afford you an opportunity of estimating the qualities of this charming woman.

" Full well dear youth,  
I know thy truth,  
And all thy arts to please;—  
But ah! is this  
A time for blifs,  
Or things so soft as these.—  
Whilst all around  
We hear no sound  
But war's terrific strain,  
Our martial bands,  
The drum commands,  
And chides each tardy swain?"

They continued for some time after their marriage to be the admiration of the gay circles of Philadelphia; but, finding that the dissipation which the English and French manners had introduced during the late

late war, and knowing that their fortune was not equal to a continuation of that extravagance; which the times and their rank in sociey had made unavoidable, they came to a resolution of retiring to this country, which seems to be the asylum of all unfortunate people; but at the same time it has a large proportion of rational characters among them; which to be sure, is not often the case with such persons as have been the cause of their own troubles. But in the case of the disappointed persons who find their way here, the most of them are men of high spirit, who have consumed their estates in the service of their country.

The General has in addition to the graces of person, those of the mind—he is an accomplished gentleman, an affectionate husband, a fond father, a cheerful and pleasant companion; but above all he is a good and useful citizen.

Mrs. W—— appears to be about five and twenty, which may be two or three years younger than the General; and is one of those happy women whom we seldom meet in England, i. e. to derive her greatest pleasure from the General's attention, the care of her children, the free intercourse of her friends, and from sharing her hospitable board with strangers.

As to her character as a mere woman, I cannot give you a better idea of it, than adopting that, which Cardinal De Retz has given Madam De Longueville; who he said, "had a great store of natural wit, and which was more, took great pains to refine and give it a pleasing turn.

" Her capacity which was not helped by her laziness, could never reach so far as state affairs. She had a languishing air that touched the heart more than the vacuity

vacity even of a more beautiful woman —she had even a certain indolence of mind which had its charms; because she was now and then awaked out of it by starts of fancy surprizingly fine."

George is hurrying me to finish my letter.—O my dear Eliza! how does my poor heart beat? How powerfully do the ties of nature call upon me to tell you how sincerely I love you? .and at the very moment when I expect——O my kind fister, George must write you from Philadelphia respecting the family. I can only say that we are all well. Adieu! I was very near omitting to mention, that Capt. Arl-ton and myself had a curious adventure with an old gentleman as we were crossing the mountain; for such he proved himself by his manners and conversation, though his garb and employment was that of a yeoman. He promised to call upon

me when he should return, and I assure you, such are my expectations of the pleasure I shall derive from this curious character, that I am quite impatient to see him.

God bless you.

Caroline.

LET-

## LETTER XV.

*Miſs R— to Mrs. W—.*

Bristol, Nov. 1

HOW shall I express, my dear W—, my gratitude to you and the General for your most affectionate conduct to me and my unfortunate father?

I have read in romance, tales of the most lively and heroic friendship, and I have heard professions when the imagination has been warmed into enthusiasm equally disinterested; but I hope you will pardon me, my friend, when I say, that there is a delicacy in anticipating the wants of others, which was never more beautifully characterized than in the letter I received by Terpin.

As the wretch who is condemned to suffer for a supposed crime, after making his peace with heaven, and after having taken leave of his friends and drawn over his eyes the veil which hides from him the radiance of the world he loves, and shews to his imagination that chasm between our existence here and eternity in a manner more emphatical than words can express, and who has knelt to receive the fatal stroke, hears the sound of pardon, which he at first mistakes, conceiving it to be a seraphic voice from heaven, starts in wonder and amazement to find that he still lives, and may again enjoy the felicity of seeing some fond girl or beloved acquaintance; such was the frantic spirits of your R——— before she had half finished your dear letter.

It seems as if heaven ever meant to punish those persons who would prodigally sport with her precious gifts. I find that my felicity is not to be compleat, and

and that the golden prospects which you so kindly held out to me, are banished into air—my father shedding a profusion of tears occasioned by the present, and a recollection of the many past kindnesses he has received from you, and fearing that the General's liberality might subject him to some inconvenience, determined to summon the different people to whom he was indebted, and to lay a state of his property before them, which he meant they should divide; and then, in despite of his infirmities, to remove to the country that has so much celebrity for its being the asylum of the victims of poverty; and which has all the charms that nature can produce, since it contains James and Maria W—.

But what was our astonishment when the creditors sent word that they had no demands, for that they had been paid? and desired at the same time that my father would make no interrogations, for they had received their money upon condition,

that they would never promulge to the world, who was the author that cancelled his engagements.

Who could have done this exclaimed my father? By heavens! these are transactions which overwhelm me! It is impossible for my shattered frame to bear that torrent of emotions which is imposed upon a heart still alive to all the sentiments of honour and gratitude, by so much generosity on the part of my friends the W—s, and this friendly incognitum. Come, said he, to my arms my child, which though feeble will press you to a bosom that is warm in philanthropy, and beats high with manly sentiments. Perhaps Laura this is the last effort of nature; for I feel my sensations too powerful, and I am apprehensive that my afflicted heart will not be able to propel, that mass of vital fluid with which it has been overwhelmed from every extremity of my emaciated frame. But as I know you love and honour my name,

name, let me conjure you to find out this man, who would have been *unique*, had there not been two W—s. Let them know that he was sensible of the obligations he was under to him, and that he had but two wishes to live. The first, for the sake of his only child, whom he lamented had not a friend, but who was a long way distant from her; and the next to make his benefactors sensible how much he esteemed their worth and unparalleled goodness. Here he ceased, and then pressed me to his bosom — I perceived that nature by an effort had outdone herself, and while the hurry of my spirits were almost in tone with his, I found before I had time to make any answer, that the chill of death had fastened upon his cheeks, which rested upon my distracted breast. Here let me pause for a moment to contemplate the peculiar operations of nature.

When a sensible heart vibrates in the ecstasy of joy or grief, how wonderful and

exquisite must be the pleasure or pain? and how admirably are distributed those various fibres and filaments which operate, with such peculiar harmony? and how essentially does it prove, that the finer the organs of the human body the more delicate the feelings, and consequently the sense of honour?

This may appear to you at first a strange digression; but when I was confounded with three events so extraordinary, and when I felt a composure at this last circumstance, which made me think upon reflection that I was deficient in filial tenderness, I was induced to turn my thoughts to the operations of pleasure and pain; and I could only account for my indifference, from that equilibrium which so many sudden shocks upon my feelings had produced.

Such, my dear friend, have been the events within two days past; and as I begin to recover from the effects of that hurry of

spirits

spirits which for a time left me without the power of acting, I must take leave of you in order that Terpin may return, to prevent the General putting himself to an expence and trouble for nothing.

You see my dear W—— the important task which my dear father has imposed upon me. Heaven only knows how I shall acquit myself—but be assured, that I never shall forget the obligation I owe to your happy and worthy husband. Farewell, you shall hear from me the first opportunity I can find to write.

I am your affectionate, but afflicted friend,

Laura R——.

## LETTER XVI.

*Mr. Il-ray to Capt. Arl-ton.*Philadelphia, Nov.<sup>ing</sup>.

I HAVE this moment, my dear Arkton,  
met with General W——'s old servant  
Terpin, who has acquainted me with the  
sudden death of old Mr. R——, and  
that he is to set out in the morning on  
his return, post to Pittsburgh with the  
melancholy news.

This circumstance has affected me anew  
in the most sensible manner—you know  
what an amiable creature Miss R—— is?  
and what a series of disappointments she  
has met with to mar her hopes, and cor-  
rode here every felicity?

The failure of her uncle first involved  
her father, whose high sense of honour  
would not suffer the creditors to take a  
compromise;

compromise; but it was from his frequent and generous actions that he beggared his fortune, and in the solitary wretchedness which penury produces, I had often reflected with the greatest concern upon the fate of a man, whose benevolence had so often warmed into rapture the frozen face of poverty, and turned the gloom of sorrow into a luminous cheerfulness.

It was under such reflections I determined to visit him in his retirement at Bristol, where I knew I should meet from his social heart a most honest welcome; and as I have always enjoyed the most lively pleasure from the exhilarating spirits of the charming Miss R—, I expected to spend a most agreeable fortnight in their neighbourhood, as I should be most of my time with them. But judge what were my feelings when I entered the door of that good old man. Instead of finding the same lovely Laura in the bloom of life, who used to gladden the laughing hours while her fancy

fancy was as vivid as the lustre of her eyes, now pale—her spirits quite evaporated, and sadness so marked on her cheeks, that it was not in her power, with all her exertions, to resume her former cheerfulness.

The kind old man received me with open arms. It was in the evening, and he was conversing with his usual sprightliness, when I had for some time missed Laura; and having repeatedly asked for her, I saw that it affected him. But when I entered into the supper room and found the table covered with all the usual elegance of Miss R——, and her little supper the exact emblem of her mind, I felt my heart leap with joy, at the idea that things were not so bad as I at first had conceived them.—But when the affectionate old man took Laura's hand and pressed it tenderly to his bosom, and softly said, are you not fatigued my dear girl, and after seating himself observing the tears start in his eyes, by heavens! I could not stand it.—The fire which had been kindling

Dear Miss Witherow  
how I love you

THE EMIGRANTS.

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kindling in my breast, now burst into a flame.—I threw down my knife and fork, and though Mr. R—— collected himself, and Laura seemed to have regained from exercise part of her former animation, still it was impossible for me to divest myself of those feelings, which this interesting evening had produced.

Come, said the friendly old man, taking hold of one of my hands, we are very happy to see you, and as you know that things are altered with us, then taking hold of Laura's hand with his other, I will candidly inform you, that my dear child has been employed preparing her little supper, for we are not in a situation to keep a maid. But said he, continuing, we are always glad to see our old friends, and when they do us the honour to brighten our lonely evenings, which as the autumn advances become long and tedious, the least we can do, is to make their time as agreeable to them as possible.—Do not suffer, my worthy friend, the sympathy

of the vi Anno.

sympathy of your feelings to throw a damp upon those joys which are so short lived.— For when I recollect how many millions of human beings, who at this moment are suffering not only under the most devouring poverty, but who are, perhaps, also shut out from all intercourse with their friends, nay, who never see day-light, but live unseen and unpitied; I have reason to rejoice at my comparative felicity.—But said he, as he still continued, when I take a view of the unfortunate African who is torn from his home—from his family—and from that independence when he laboured for himself, and when he enjoyed the fruits of his toil, which he kindly shared with a smiling progeny, whose infant faces, when lisping to their fire, taught him to feel that unbounded bliss flowing from the affectionate soul; now living in a state of captivity, suffering under the most tyrannic and inhuman sacrifice, how much more reason have I to consider my situation happy than miserable?

Miss.

Miss R—— and myself listened with profound attention to this harangue; but however forcible the moral truths it contained, they were not sufficient to cheer the gloom that had overcast the evening.

Laura at length broke the silence which had continued for some minutes, by saying, how very much was the system of slavery to be reprobated, and lamented, that the depravity of the world was such, as not to fix the most flagrant odium upon those concerned in a traffic, which disgraced human nature. And who could not be looked upon in any better light than homicides; for, that she had ever understood, the most inhuman murders had often been committed upon those unfortunate, fable beings, who were degraded to a situation no better than that of brutes; and, that cruelties even to brutes were highly reprehensible; and she hoped, some enlightened government would one day set the example of punishing

punishing Monsters of every sort.—The supper still remained untouched.

After an evening past in this way, my dear James, it was impossible for me to reflect, without feeling the most lively concern, upon the vicissitudes of the fortune of this amiable and once opulent family.

It appeared to me that inactive benevolence was little better than misanthropy; and, that my merely staying a fortnight, or even a year in their neighbourhood, could very little tend to alleviate the sorrows of a people which required a specific remedy.

It was under such considerations that I wrote a note to Miss R—, apologising for not having it in my power to breakfast with her the next morning, as business of consequence, and which had occurred since I left town, obliged me to return immediately; which I gave to the Porter of the Inn with instructions to deliver it early in  
the

the morning, and instead of going to rest, I instantly set out on my return.

After my arrival in Town the next day I sent for Mr. S—, who you know is very intimate with the family, and who, it has been said, had pretensions to Miss R—, to call as early as possible upon me, for that I had some particular business with him which did not admit of delay.

Now as Mr. S— was one of the umpires in the settlement of the brother's accounts, it naturally occurred to me that he must be acquainted with the penal engagements of Mr. R—, who had been taken as security for his brother.

I was in the right. Mr S— knew every thing concerning the business, and upon enumerating the amount of those engagements, I found they were something less than the inconsiderable sum of Two Thousand Pounds.

I then

I then told Mr. S—, which I thought was an innocent fraud, that previous to the death of young Mr. R—, and which had happened before he arrived in this country, that there was an honorary account between us, which had never been settled, and that in looking over some memorandums it appeared to me, I must be his debtor upwards of Two Thousand Pounds; and I thought if I could contrive to cancel those bonds which threatened Mr. R— with immediate destruction, without his knowing any thing of the matter, I should be very happy; and at the same time I did not wish to appear in the busineſſ, for fear, that if it ever should be discovered it would ſeem like aiming at the reputation of benevolence, by firſt doing a good action by ſtealth, and then promulgging it in order to acquire luſtre to its celebrity from the *particular, and delicate manner in which the thing had been done.*

There

There was something in Mr. S——'s answer, which appeared affected. Said he, this is being over fastidious. If you are debtor to the estate of Mr. R—— junior, why not pay it without ceremony? But without giving me time to answer him, he continued with observing, that he supposed I wished the matter to be kept secret, as I had not come forward earlier in the business, which he did not doubt was adventurous, as it was very likely, that the documents or memorandums had been mislaid, and that gentlemen did not always wish to bring to light their juvenile indiscretions: however, said he, I will undertake it for you with the greatest pleasure, and will pledge my *reputation as a man of honour, that your name shall never be mentioned in the business.* And then said, still persisting to be heard, as old Mr. R—— was at that moment in a most perilous situation, which he knew, and that he would be arrested in a few days, there was no time to be lost.

I was

I was quite disgusted with this loquacity; but as I had broken the ice I was obliged to proceed, though I wished it had been managed by a better hand.

This man has the reputation of possessing great talents, and as I never saw so much of him before, I confess I had been deceived by the general opinion; but he appears to me a mere supercilious coxcomb, with all the pedantry of a classic, without the erudition; and with all the pomp and ostentation of a fine gentleman, he wants suavity of manners, and that civility which consists in suffering other people to have part of the conversation; and which was the more rude, as the subject agitated, concerned myself solely.

However I gave him a draft upon my banker, and left the business wholly to his management, which he has since, proved to me, was done, by assuring me the bonds were cancelled and burnt, and shewing me the receipts that he had taken; and which

was

was a superfluous precaution, when a bond  
is cancelled.

You see, my dear friend, that when I ex-  
pected the father of my late companion  
and friend would be made happy, I find he  
is no more. I shall write immediately a  
consolatory letter to Miss R—.

I begin to be impatient to know how  
your amiable society goes on, and whether  
or not your heart is in danger from the  
enchanting Caroline. Tell her how much  
I wish to be with you at Pittsburg. You  
know you are never to omit to mention  
me to General and Mrs. W—.

Farewell.

G. Il—ray.

LET-

## LETTER XVII.

*Capt. Arl-ton to Mr. Il-ray.*

Pittsburg, Nov.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

HOW transitory are all our joys, and how vain are all our expectations? How miserable is that man whose breast is warm with the keenest desire, and receives in return, but cold civility? But how much more miserable is your friend, who had vainly believed that Caroline felt for him a tender predilection; and when he was calculating upon seeing the mistress of his heart in that elegant *dishabille*, when the roses of her cheeks from confinement, blending so with the lilly, as to give that soft effulgence to her beauty which is all divine, and when the heaven of her eyes

eyes would warm into transports, feelings, already ecstatic;—then to receive a cold note that was scarcely civil?—Enclosed I send it to you, that my eyes may never behold the cruel sentence again. By heaven it is too much!—Forgive me my dear Il-ray; but it is by laying open to you the wounds which rankle my heart, that I find the pain in a degree mitigated.

*A Copy of the Note.*

“ Miss T——n presents her most respectful compliments to Capt. Arl-ton,  
“ and has the honour to assure him, that  
“ she communicated to Caroline the na-  
“ ture of his visit this morning, and she  
“ is very sorry to add, that Caroline was  
“ much surprized at such familiarity; and  
“ desired Miss T——n, to inform him,  
“ that when she was ready to see com-  
“ pany, she should be glad to see Captain  
“ Arl-ton the same as any other friend.

" Mr. and Mrs. T——n desire to express their thanks to Capt. Arlton for his enquiries concerning Caroline's health."

Bower Row,  
Tuesday Morning.

My mortifications at this extraordinary rebuke were such, that I was not out of my lodgings untill yesterday, when Andrew informed me, I was engaged to dine with General W——.

I will leave you to guesf what were my feelings, when I had scarce entered the General's house, when the two Miss T—ns arrived, attended by Dr. K—— and C——. I involuntarily rose to hand Caroline to a seat; but as I thought she appeared as if she wished to avoid me, I turned short upon my heel, not knowing what I did, and told the General I had thoughts of taking a trip to Louifville before the winter set in. But before he had time to make

make me any answer, Miss T——n wondered what had been the reason they had not had the pleasure of seeing me for some time past? upon which C——, who you know is ever aiming at pleasantry, observed, that he believed the Captain must be in love, for all his friends had the same cause to wonder; and said he, continuing, my friend, you are in the right, a trip to Louisville, doubtless will be of service to you, for I am told that absence is an infallible cure for a tender passion.

This wit of C——'s, which was meant as mere pleasantry, touched me so closely that I felt in the most sensible manner the awkward figure I must appear in the eyes of the whole company; and was ridiculous enough in reply, to say, what a misfortune it was to the world, that he had not lived in those times, and in those countries, where jesters had made such considerable figures.—For certainly a man so facetious would have been an acquisition

tion to courts, where buffoonery was mistaken for wit.

My solemn tone would have made the whole company serious; but C—— running immediately to Caroline, and seizing her hand, and then placing himself in the precise attitude in which I was, when he came suddenly upon me, at the time which I mentioned Caroline was alarmed at the sight of the Indians; and affecting to make love to her, then appealed to me, to know if such was not my manner when he surprized me; but he was not satisfied here, for he told the whole story of my embarrassment, and related my apology with such irresistible humour, as to throw the whole company into a roar of laughter. Caroline hung down her head; but I thought I saw her bite her lips, to prevent her from tittering out.

This was altogether too much, and had it not have been for the amiable Mrs. W——, I believe I should have been ridiculous

diculous enough, to have left the company to have continued their merriment by themselves.

Well James, said she, I dare say this is not the first time you have made love; and I declare I should have thought it very extraordinary, if a man of your gallantry could have taken those sequestered walks, which you have done with Miss Caroline, without in some degree having experienced the influence of the little wanton deity, who always was the attendant of beauty. And continuing, she said,

That commerce through stormy elements was blown,

And the ruby made to shine in wat'ry zone ;—  
Love storms, &c.

Madam, said I. Dinner was at this instant announced. Sir, replied she, be so good as to hand Miss Caroline to the dining-room. I then endeavoured to rally my spirits, and stepping briskly to Caroline, I begged that I might

be permitted to have the honour, &c. She gave her hand. Here I experienced new emotions. It was the same hand I once had pressed so tenderly; but Caroline was more lovely than ever. She was dressed in a plain white muslin gown,—her light hair hung in loose ringlets down her back, which without powder gave additional luxuriance to her neck, which was covered with a thin handkerchief; but through which the transparency of her bosom displayed ten thousand beauties. There was only a tinge of that rose left which formerly had covered her cheeks; but it was still sufficient to give animation to beauty, and which contrasted with the crimson of her lips, produced the most enchanting softness, and bespoke a soul as gentle as the dove,

Whose plaintive cooing, renovates desire,  
Warms ev'ry pulse, and kindles genial fire,  
Which leads to ecstasy without alloy,  
Drowns ev'ry sense and consummates the joy.

I made

I made several attempts to speak as we were passing through the passage on our way to the dinning-room, without effect: at length, said I, Miss Caroline, I hope you have recovered from the fright you received when I last had the pleasure to walk with you. Sir, replied she, what could have induced you to believe that I was so much flurried at that trifling affair, as to think I was not yet recovered? I hope you will pardon me, Miss Caroline, said I, for I meant only to make a civil enquiry. Sir, she answered, with considerable vivacity, I never presumed that you meant anything more.

We had now reached the dining room, and as the General had seated Miss T——n upon his right, I handed Caroline towards the head of the table; and at Mrs. W——'s request, seated myself upon her left hand, which was very fortunate, as it gave me an opportunity to be very officious in assisting in doing the honours of the table,

which was an excellent cloak for my embarrassment, and a shield against the unmerciful attacks of C—.

I made a variety of flourishes with my knife and fork, and as often had my plate changed; but eat not a morsel.

In this kind of way I got through an hour or two; but the period was advancing when I expected fresh difficulties; for Mrs. W—, during dinner, had said to me aside, she intended we should have a dance in the evening, and that Colonel B— had been so obliging as to promise to send the band of music belonging to his regiment; but begged I would not betray the circumstance, as from being unexpected, it would, perhaps, be the more agreeable.

If she had known the state of my mind, I dare say she would have thought her precaution needless; for I was too much taken up with the most corroding reflections to think of dancing, music, or anything

thing else, but the fate of my foolish passion; which I found every moment was increasing, as every look from Caroline went directly to my heart; though I could discover that they were casual glances, and made with no other difference, than those to any other person. But how silly is this expression after the note I received?

We were all about to retire at the same time, (for Mrs. W——'s parties are so composed, that the gentlemen never wish for amusements separate from those of the ladies,) when the General took hold of my arm, and said, James I want to talk to you for half an hour, for which detention I hope the ladies will be so obliging as to forgive me. Mrs. W—— gave one of her complacent nods of assent, when we were left alone.

Though I lament, said the General, that we are going to loose you, yet I rejoice that you are about to undertake a journey, which I flatter myself will afford you so

much pleasure; and which will only separate us for a time. But this joy is far from not being selfish, for, said he, I have it in contemplation to remove to Louisville in the spring, and wish to have an account of the country from a person whom I can depend upon.—I thanked him for his good opinion.

Though I first mentioned my intention of going down the river in a moment when I knew not what I said, I had already made up my mind to pursue it without delay, in order to avoid the indifference of Caroline, which I found I could not support.

The plan of my rout was settled, and the General was expatiating, in his usual way, upon what would be the brilliancy and extent of the empire which is forming in this part of the world; which he said would eclipse the grandeur of the Roman dominion in the zenith of their glory, when he was stopped short by Mrs. W—, who said, that we had taken an hour and an half, and which

which was three times as long as he had requested.—The General thought the time had been short.—I thought it had been an age.

Well, said he, my dear, taking hold of her hand, and with a tenderness which so admirably characterizes his manners to Mrs. W—, will you pardon the transgression when I assure you, that we have been planning for the promotion of your future felicity. It is always for me you know, my dear, she replied with the most charming vivacity; but if you please, I will take Capt. Arlton with me.

During our stay we had finished two bottles of old Madeira and had begun upon the third; so that my spirits by this time were not a little exhilarated; and in that situation I entered the ball room with more vivacity, than I had possessed during dinner.

I had called to my recollection how often the fate of states and empires had been

determined by the charms of women, and how inglorious it would be, for me to abandon an enterprize, pregnant with so many visionary and inflated schemes of grandeur, for a foolish passion, that had no reciprocity; and which could only subject me to contempt, and make me an object to promote the merriment of my acquaintances. With such reflections I entered the ball room.

Where the nymphs and the swains to the pipe and  
the song,

While the mirth moving dance claim'd the in-  
nocent kifs,

I saw my sweet Caroline join in the throng,  
Like a seraph just flown from the regions of bliss.

The graces had lavished their pow'rs on her form,  
Not Hebe surpass'd her, the goddess of youth;—  
Her smiles might the breast of Decrepitude warm,  
As her toe to brisk time beat the measures of truth.

But her eyes, ah! her eyes—recollection forbear;  
There a band of soft Loves their sharp arrows  
let fly;

Not a swain caught a glance from my delicate fair,  
But languishing fell like a lover to die.

Fell Discord ne'er dealt her an atom of strife,  
Jove gave her a charm to subdue even care,—  
With such worth I would finish the thread of my  
life,  
For the rest must be heav'n were Caroline there.

In that intoxicated situation, and with such artifical spirit, I danced alternately with different ladies, and, thus by affecting an air of indifference, and with the hilarity of the company at supper, I retired with the idea, that the whole party must be convinced the affair with Caroline, was the mere effect of gallantry, and not what is termed a love fit; and in this opinion I retired with considerable composure.

O my friend! what were my reflections this morning? How much did I reprobate a conduct so disingenuous? How much did I repent that a hasty and unguarded expression should exile me from all that my soul holds dear? But the mandate is signed, and I must obey.—All my fond wishes are withered for ever—I am going to traverse regions

regions which are almost unknown, and hope in my solitary wretchedness to forget the object of my misery—but that is impossible—I shall wait your arrival at Louisville, and will then attend you to the Illinois—my baggage and horses are embarked. Farewell my friend. That the God of love may be more propitious to you, is the wish of your's sincerely,

J. ARLTON.

P. S. I see from my window that the boat I embark on board is under way, I shall follow in a barge, and in all probability in seven days I shall be seven hundred miles distant from the lovely Caroline.

LET-

## LETTER XVIII.

*Caroline T——n to Mrs. F——.*

Pittsburg, Dec.

AS heroes have their defects, and as a celebrated philosopher has said, that the great Prince de Condé "with the most brilliant wit in the world, did not enter enough into particulars, nor weigh things together;" I flatter myself that my dear Eliza will not wonder when I inform her, how much my credulous and silly heart was imposed upon by the professions or gallantry of Capt. Arl-ton; for his subsequent conduct has proved that it was nothing more.

For when I felt the most lively expectations of seeing him, and after he had solicited, seemingly, with the greatest earnestness

nestness for such an indulgence, what was my astonishment, when for three days I saw no more of him untill we accidentally happened to meet at a dinner of Mrs. W——'s, where he behaved with the greatest indifference, and indeed, seemed rather confounded for having said so much as I repeated in my last?

But judge what were my emotions, when I heard him say to General W——, he intended to take a trip to Louisville before the winter set in—a journey I never knew he had in prospect.

Whether his friend who attended us on that day, heard what he said to me and laughed at his folly, or not, I cannot positively say; but it is certain, that previous to dinner at Mrs. W——'s, he appeared to be very much hurt at his friend's raillery, and which gave me the most exquisite pain, as I then still believed his sensibility was too much concerned to have it made a jest of; but at which, every person present,

Mrs.

Mrs. W—— excepted, laughed most immoderately, while his humorous companion was holding my hand, and mimicing his ardour;—this was the more torturing to me, as I abhor buffoonery of every sort, and at that moment it gave me such indignant anguish, that it was with difficulty I could keep from forcing my hand away, and which nothing but delicacy could have prevented.

He remained with the General after dinner, and did not join a little dance that Mrs. W—— had, most unexpectedly to me, prepared, for nearly two hours after we had left the dining room, when I was told by the General, by way of apology for being so long absent, and which he lamented, that it was occasioned by settling the plan of Capt. Arl-ton's journey, who would set out the next day for Louisville.

O my dear Eliza! this was too much for your Caroline. The General saw that I was pale, when he with that eleganee that anticipates

anticipates our distresses, conducted me to Mrs. W——'s apartment, where I was afterwards informed, I fainted. But as I found Mrs. W—— when I recovered, who told me the General had attributed my illness to dancing in the weak state I appeared to be in, occasioned by my late confinement; and insisted upon my not fatiguing myself any more; it proved to me, he had not discovered the real cause of my indisposition, as I at first had apprehended.

When I returned to the party Capt. Arlton was dancing with Mary, and appeared to possess the most animated spirits; for after they had passed to the bottom of the dance, and Mary was seated, he flirted with several of the ladies with all the gaiety of a man of fashion.—In short, he seemed to be perfectly at his ease, and only formal to me; for when he asked me to dance, which he was obliged to do out of politeness, it was, “Miss Caroline will you do me the honour,

honour," &c? and when I told him I felt myself fatigued, and begged he would excuse me, he replied with great briskness, by all means, Madam, for he did not doubt it, as I had not been accustomed to exercise; which you know, my dear Eliza, was the very reverse; and was the more cruel, as it brought fresh to my recollection the pleasure I had experienced when travelling over the rugged Appalachean mountains.

Heavens, said I to myself! can there be any thing in nature so barbarous as to tantalize the feelings of sensibility; and from a man who was all gentleness when I treated him with deference only; and who has now become the very reverse when I have betrayed signs of my fondness? but, said I, pride, the antidote of all human sorrow, will stand my friend and be my auxiliary—come then to my aid thou charming partner of my most sensible mortifications, and let poor Caroline rest in thy friendly bosom, for she has no protector or council but thee

thee—my heart overflowed, I was again obliged to retire, where I remained in the most agonizing sorrow untill the company sat down to supper; for so insensible was Mary, that it was impossible for me to persuade her to permit me to leave the company and go home. She remonstrated, and said, that it would look like affectation, and moreover it would be treating Mrs. W—with disrespect, who had given the *ruelle* in honour to us.

You know, my dear Eliza, that Mary never was remarkable for her generosity; but lately there has appeared so much distrust and caprice in her conduct towards me, that I have every cause to make me miserable, and not one to make me happy; but the persuasion when you, my charming sister, know of your Caroline's sufferings, will shed a tear of sympathy as you read over these pages, which are made quite wet with the profusion of mine.

Even

Even my walks I apprehend would no longer appear to have charms, since I have lost the companion of my journey, and the guide to my rambling excursions. But he is gone!—and the *sombre* heaven shuts out from me every ray of comfort.

When ruthless frost with unrelenting hand,  
In icy fetters binds the mourning land,  
Seals up the murmuring river at its source,—  
And marks with sadness all its winding course:  
Kind heav'n indulge me with one generous friend,

The choicest boon, that heav'n itself can lend ;  
The social virtues of whose kindred heart  
Can banish gloom, and cheerfulness impart ;—  
Expand the soul, reanimate the frame,  
And give celestial bliss to mortals name.

I then think, Eliza, I could unbosom my heart, and experience from the charms of conversation and free intercourse, some consolation and relief to my wretchedness.

Mrs.

Mrs. W—— is the most amiable creature alive; but she has already formed her attachments, and her heart is compleatly occupied by the General and a Miss R—, who lives near Philadelphia, and who she tells me, it is most likely will become an addition to our society at this place.

However ridiculous it may appear to you, it is true, Eliza, that I am calculating very much upon the pleasure I shall receive from the society of the old man I mentioned to have met on the mountain; and who I have been informed this morning by a young man who was with him at that time, has returned, and sent word to me, by him, that he would be at Pittsburg as early as the fatigue of his journey would permit.

Such, my dear sister, have been the rapid changes of my fortune in the perilous field of sentiment and love; and as I would not suffer you to remain ignorant of a circumstance,

circumstance, that concerned your Caroline, I embraced this opportunity to inform you of the whole.

I begin to think it time I had heard from you,—though I know the distance is so great between us, as to forbid my being too sanguine in a matter that must always give me the most lively pleasure; and should I be so fortunate, and you promise still to love me, I will then recover my spirits.

I write this unknown to the family, who are all well, and who only wait for George's return to take possession of the farm, after having complied with Mrs. W——'s importunities, to permit me to remain with her at this place during the winter; which I confess, though it once had so many beauties, no longer affords me pleasure; for I am constantly mortified with the projecting headland, that obstructs my view down the river.

God bless you, Eliza.

CAROLINE.

LET-

## LETTER XIX.

*Miss Caroline T——n to Mrs. F——.*

Pittsburg, Dec.

MY DEAR SISTER,

I HAVE just time to inform you of a circumstance of the most extraordinary kind. The old man came according to his promise—and the moment he recognized my mother, who was sitting at the fire side, he exclaimed, and is it possible! she trembled—there was something in his voice that was familiar to her, but which she had not sufficient recollection to know. I entered the room at that moment, for he had enquired for me at the door—Madam, said he, behold your brother—yes! my dear sister, the uncle who we have long believed was no more, and

who

who it was said had fallen a victim to his indiscretions, still lives, and is the same open and ingenuous hearted man as he has always been represented.

He embraced my mother, and told her that no past feuds should be related by him, for he had buried in oblivion a recollection of those personal injuries, which once had caused him so much uneasiness.—He then embraced me, and asked if he might be permitted to adopt me for his daughter.—My mother appeared as if she was in a dream, and while he first prest me to his breast, and bathed my cheeks with his tears, I felt all the joy which a long absence of two friends inspires when they suddenly meet. My mother's astonishment caused her to continue silent, untill her sensibility, like Niobe, appeared to have formed her into a statue.

Strange events, said our dear uncle, at the same time seating me by his side, and taking me by the hand, chequer the path

of this life; but this meeting is too unexpected for me to inquire into the particulars which were the cause of bringing you to this wild country. However, continued he, my dear girl, the pleasure I have in meeting you is considerably lessened, by knowing that misfortunes alone could have been the cause of your migration to this new world.

My father now entered the room, and as Mary had been informed of the strange recognition, she came down from her apartment, and here my dear sister, I must leave you to judge what were the sensations of the whole party. They are easier to be conceived than to be transcribed — I shall only say, that he remained with us for several days, and has promised to furnish me with the whole of the particulars respecting the affair with Lady B——; for which you know, he has been so severely censured, and which as soon as I am made acquainted with, I will transmit you.

I now

I now despair of having my anxiety removed by hearing from you before the spring, for the winter winds now howl abroad, and the bear in caverns sheltered, neglects to feed.

Not a bird is heard but the whistling quail ;  
Nor squirrel seen to sport his brushy tail,

You know, my Eliza, that the bear is a torpid animal which sleeps throughout the winter season; but I do not know, whether you are so well acquainted with the natural history of this country, as to know that the squirrels of America, of which there are several sorts, are much larger than those of Europe, and that they have most beautiful tails, that wave over their backs in a most meretricious manner, as they leap from branch to branch in the forests, industriously collecting nuts for their winter's provender, which is carefully laid up in the hollow part of some tree,

where they retire upon the approach of cold.

The quail is entirely different from those of Europe. In size they are something larger than a dove, and their plumage very much like the English partridge, from which circumstance they are called by many people in America partridge; but I should suppose they cannot be of that species, as they migrate, and are birds of passage; and what is more remarkable, they are in a degree domestic, for our long lost uncle informs me, when this country was first settled, not a quail was to be seen; but as it became inhabited, they crossed the mountain, and are now in the greatest plenty.

They resort farm yards, and all places where they can find grain of any sort; and when all other birds keep close within caverns, you hear their melancholy whistle in every part of the groves and orchards; for nothing but bad weather prevents

vents their being abroad, when they take shelter in some thicket, and affectionately huddle so close together, that the inhuman and unsportmanlike fowler, will at a single shot destroy a whole brood of them ; which always continue together until their season of love commences, when they separate in pairs, and every incubation produces a new and distinct family.

One thing I have not been able to reconcile, which is, as they are aboriginal to this continent, and are now found only in cultivated countries, how they existed when America was altogether a wild.

You see, my charming sister, that I have been getting on at a most rapid rate; but I know you will forgive the presumption of my touching upon subjects, which should be left to the sublime Buffon, or the more accurate Pennant.

However, I do not know, why a person should remain ignorant of a subject that affords so much matter for admiration? and if the education of women have generally been so injudicious, as to prevent their extending their understanding beyond the common limits that custom has prescribed, doubtless it has been the material cause, why illiberal men have estimated our talents at so cheap a rate. For while we have been taught to talk of dress and the things of the day, and which have constituted the extent of our colloquial charms, few women have had strength of mind equal to burst the bands of prejudice, and soaring into the regions of science and nature, have shewn that comprehension of mind which gives a lustre and dignity to the human understanding.

You must not think this a short letter for the distance between us, when I assure you that I am hurried for time.

Tell

Tell our friends that I often reflect upon our past pleasures, and assure Mr. F——— of our respect and esteem.

I am your affectionate sister,

CAROLINE.

## LETTER XX.

*P. P.—, Esq. to Miss Caroline T——n.*

Laurel-mount, Jan.

MY DEAR GIRL,

I Shall not repeat the joy our unexpected meeting gave me; but I beg leave to add, that finding a niece in this remote part of the world, in an image so fair, has heightened that felicity I thought at the time was supreme. But we can only judge by comparison, and feel according to the tone or elasticity of the nervous system. And it is thus, my charming Caroline, while the youth and vigour of your conftitution, which will make you experience the most exquisite pains and pleasure, I have arrived at that period

period of life, when the animal spirits are more tranquilized. However, I am still sensibly alive to every thing in which you can have an interest — I participate in the sorrows, the derelictions you have been compelled to make, caused you; and which at present seem to agonize a frame, that like the aspin, is tremblingly alive to every breath; and which wants the balm of consolation, to prevent its tender heart from receiving a dangerous mortification.

I have watched your emotions with an eye long accustomed to the world, and I know that you will forgive me, if I say, I have seen the contending passions of pride and love, agitate your tender bosom, like a rude northern wind opposed to some limpid stream, which ruffles its gentle current, when it seems to wish, to pay its tribute to nature.

Stoicism is a virtue only in the estimation of fools—it is a contemptible philo-

sophy, because it never was practised but by men without sensibility, or when they have been hardened by vice—because it aims at the destruction of social pleasures, and because it saps every rational sentiment, by sacrificing real for imaginary good.

But why should I preposterously talk of philosophy to youth and beauty, which eagerly pants for the acquisition of joys flowing from the current of nature?

It is from the solace of friendship that we first receive an alleviation to those pains, which the sensible and virtuous heart finds from the losses to which it is subject. Our passions are not unlike the element in which we live, deviable; and though governed by springs that move the whole creation, they appear capricious. It is right they should be so; otherwise our lives would be full of sameness and gloom. Recollect that mirth and cheerfulness were

the

the peculiar attributes of Venus. Milton has said in a pleasant strain,

“ Come thou Goddess fair and free  
In heaven y’clep’d Euphrosyne,  
And by men heart-easing mirth,  
Whom lovely Venus at a birth,  
With two sister graces more  
To ivy-crowned Bacchus bore.  
Haste thee, nymph, and bring with thee  
Jest and youthful Jollity.”

I know how difficult it is to be cheerful when the heart is ill at ease, but as you have taken so much interest in my history as to request that I will communicate to you, from time to time, the circumstances of my life since I abandoned my friends, or if you will forgive me, rather since my friends abandoned me, I must deprecate the continuance of that latent melancholy in you, which embitters my every bliss; for it would be the height of apathy on my part to proceed in a narration that con-

cerns myself, untill I had first removed the sadness from your bosom.

If you will add to the ties which already connect us, those of friendship, you will impose upon me an obligation, that shall be the pride of my life to support with honour.

I am growing old it is true, but I would still be alert in the service of my friend. The ties of consanguinity have their influence; but there is something too interesting in you, my dear girl, not to influence a man of feeling at first sight; and it would be impossible for the most callous, with indifference to behold the tear of sympathy beam in those eyes which are as brilliant as that torch which led to the illumination of the Grecian world in the destruction of Troy.

In the struggles which beauty makes for the preservation of its virtue, that celestial gem which adds a mild lustre to feminine charms, how ineffable are the transports of a manly

a manly heart when it recognizes such a divinity of soul? How effectually does it arrest the consideration of every brave and generous man? and if there have been cowards or base betrayers, who have ravished from it that inestimable gift; what an odium has it placed upon our generosity, for suffering such paltroons to triumph in the spoils of innocence, and vainly boast of the blackest villainy with impunity?

Tell me all, my charming Caroline, for I am still strong in the feelings of honour; and if aught has been offered to you which is incompatible with your delicacy or sentiments, my feeble arm shall chastise the wretch who has dared to suspect the honour of an insulated and lonely orphan.—I must again deprecate your forgiveness—I cannot disguise my feelings, though I know they formerly laid the foundation of my ruin.—I am obliged to consider your family as cyphers.

If

If you will deal candidly with me, and judging by the benignity of your countenance, I know you are incapable of doing otherwise, you will ever find me consistent. Pardon this egotism—my age and experience intitles me to the privilege of being frank and open.

I send this by my mountain companion, who always seems delighted with the thoughts of seeing you ; and as I know your goodness I mention it, for fear you might unintentionally put it out of his power.

It has ever been an observation of mine that much appropriate pleasure has been abridged by the forms and customs of the world ; and how very unfeeling is it in those people who have it in their power to give others pleasure without any trouble to themselves, but will not do it, under that selfish idea, that there is no reciprocity ; though I should suppose that genuine benevolence always found a pleasure in making others happy.

However,

However, I believe, my dear girl, that a fine woman never was accused of depriving men of the pleasure of gazing at her beauty, let them be ever so uncouth or uninteresting.—This indulgence, I know, has been generally attributed to vanity ; but I confess I have a better opinion of the tenderness of the female heart, or at least of your's, my dear, not to attribute such indulgences to more generous motives.

I shall be impatient untill I hear from you.

Believe me to be,

Affectionately your's, &c.

P. P.—.

LET-

## LETTER XXI.

*Miss Caroline T——n to P. P. Efq.*

Pittsburg, Jan.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

THE manner in which you demand my confidence is such, as to draw from me the most candid declarations; and while I admire your sentiments as a gentleman, permit me to reprobate the cause of your misfortunes.

If Telemachus wanted a Mentor to conduct him with safety through the perilous search for his father Ulysses, how much more is a friend and guardian necessary to me in my present situation? And as you have in the most ingenuous way, proffered your council and support, I shall only tell you

you how very much I consider myself fortunate, in an event that affords me the greatest consolation.

I acquainted you with every particular respecting the family since you left them, and if I omitted taking any notice of the material cause of the emotions you observed agitated my heart, it was not from any disrespect to you ; but it was the effect of that modesty, which is not the least ornament of our sex, and of which, it is impossible for a delicate mind to divest itself.

While education has continued to fetter the human mind, untimely attachments on the part of women have been considered as criminal ; and while we have been obliged to secrete our feelings from those who ought to have been our consolers and friends, we have been compelled in many instances, to search for relief from sources, that have led to our disgrace or destruction ; and thus has

has flown great part of our juvenile mi-  
series. *folies*

I had experienced in the conversation  
and company of Capt. Arl-ton, the most  
animated pleasure, and while I had fondly  
listened to his gentle solicitude for my com-  
fort and happiness in travelling to this  
country, my heart was sensibly touched with  
that tenderness for him, which his manly  
behaviour had justly inspired; and when I  
heard the declaration of his attachment for  
me, which he made, and which was like  
the sweet music of heaven, I believed his  
soul was beating with the same transports,  
and in unison with mine. *and those*

Something has intervened I apprehend,  
that made it necessary he should not repeat  
any thing upon the subject; for it is most  
likely, under the existing circumstances  
that governed his conduct, and to which  
it was his duty to attend, it would have  
been incompatible with his honour, and the  
object

object of his noble pursuits;—for I have understood, from a casual conversation with General W——, that his object of visiting Louisiana is of the most patriotic kind.

His sudden departure from this place gave me the most poignant chagrin, and nothing but a previous, and which was a feigned indisposition, could have prevented me from having discovered the real situation of my heart.

It is thus by candidly laying open to you the wounds my sensibility has experienced, I expect to dissipate sensations the most painful, and to consign to oblivion the récollection of a period the most delightful that my imagination can paint; though it was at a time, that promised me nothing but fatigue and misery.

Since you very facetiously concluded your letter with a compliment to the female heart, let me assure you, that I think  
it

it best not to examine too nicely into the motives which prompt us to acts of kindness; for, whether it proceeds from vanity or benevolence is of no consequence, while the effect is precisely the same.

Will you give me leave also to ask, since you began this sort of pleasantry, and which I think will not be *mal-apropos*, what moral the good archbishop of Cambray meant should be drawn from his representing Mentor, as so very watchful over the emotions of Telemachus, when Calypso discovered her tender anxiety, from the fears she had of his intended departure?

Is it that love is incompatible with patriotism or glory?—or was it that the allurements of artful women are dangerous to inexperienced youth, and that they cannot too cautiously avoid the snares which are continually laid for them?

Thomson has said,

" And let the aspiring youth beware of love."

Now there appears something so repugnant to nature in this idea, that I confess from deference to so great a man, I am willing to attribute such an apparent inconsistency to my own dullness, in not having a just comprehension of his ideas.

If you will not think me too philosophically inclined, I will just venture to promulge my opinion of the matter, or rather will analyze the subject.

Patriotism is supposed to be, or is called the love of your country, and the love of glory it is said emanates from heroism. Now it is impossible for a man to love his country who is incapable of loving a woman:—and as tenderness is the concomitant of bravery, it seems, as if it would be impossible for a brave man to avoid being in love. And as genuine love is nearly allied

allied—indeed is inseparable from honour; it also appears that a man cannot deserve celebrity for patriotism or courage, who never had an attachment for a woman.

You must forgive this rhapsody of ideas, and proceed with your history as you promised, as I now have complied with your request; and give me leave to assure you, my honoured friend, how much I am gratified in the pleasure of your correspondence. Farewell.

I am affectionately your's, &c.

CAROLINE.

LET-

## LETTER XXII.

*P. P. Esq. to Miss Caroline T——n.*

Laurel-mount, Jan.

MY DEAR GIRL,

LOVE is not incompatible with patriotism or glory, nor was there ever a brave or virtuous man who was not attached to women.

The construction you have put upon the opinion of the ingenuous Fenelon is just, and if Thomson has cautioned youth against the danger of love, it was because he knew from the experience of his own feelings, how fascinating are its charms.

Your letter has quite relieved my anxiety. I was apprehensive, my friend, that you had been insulted by some wretch, who

who unlike a man had taken advantage of your unprotected situation, and offered you an indignity, because he expected to avoid chastisement.

There is something however mysterious in the conduct of your friend Captain Arl-ton; and I have my suspicions that your delicacy and partiality, has induced you to convey the circumstances in the most favourable terms. But let me tell you, my charming girl, that it was not like a man of spirit, to declare his attachment, and then to leave you without coming to an eclaircissement — a gentleman would have done it for his own sake, and if his passion had been an honourable one, he would have requested it from pleasurable motives.

However, I will not add one word more, since you have made so candid a declaration of the cause of your latent sorrows— I rejoice that I have been able to draw them from you; for I know of nothing

that is so corroding as the secret emotions of the heart, when we have not a friend to whom we can unbosom ourselves, and I hope you will now resume your wanted cheerfulness.

But to begin a story, the recollection of which, brings to my mind the idea of so many pleasures and pains—so many mortifications and vicissitudes, with a circumstance at the close of my life so extraordinary, that my whole faculties are for a time suspended.

That part of my life which was dedicated to the service of my country, in the army that acted under the command of General Wolfe, you are acquainted with; and when you recollect, as I informed you, the corps in which I had the honour to serve was disbanded, and the officers put upon half pay, I had only that pittance to subsist upon; and as I had from habit, and from the connections I formed, fallen into a way of living far beyond my in-

come, I experienced every pecuniary distress, of which a mind attached to integrity is susceptible.

My Lord M——— who had served in the same army, was pleased to say, my services had merited the thanks and rewards of my country, and said, he would take every opportunity of recommending me to the notice of his Majesty; and he assured me so gracious a Sovereign, could not fail to distinguish me according to my talents.

Flattered with such expectations, I continued to keep up my connections, and appeared as usual at court. But after being tantalized by such promises, for upwards of three years, and after having involved myself considerably in debt, I experienced that the promises of my Lord were nothing more than the cant of courtly hypocrisy, which gilds the horizon of your hopes like a setting sun, and then leaves you in darkness to lament the loss of its enchanting rays.

In this situation, treated with coolness by those whom I thought had been my friends, I felt that disgust for the depravity of the human heart, which is natural to a mind uncontaminated with fervility.

It was under such sensations I sold my half pay, with a motive to pay my debts, and retire into some part of the country where I should not be known, and there, by some kind of labour, endeavour to procure an independent subsistence, and avoid the contumacy of obligation.

But as if the destinies had taken cognizance of my actions, I was diverted from that salutary resolution by meeting with Lord B\_\_\_\_\_, who had known me at court, and whose estate lay in the neighbourhood to which I had retired. He seemed quite astonished to see me in the garb in which I was clad; and after many assurances of his regard and wishes to serve me, he begged that I would make his castle my home, until he should have it in his power to

to do me those favours I so much merited. I thanked my Lord B—— for his kindness and hospitable invitation; but I told him I had been so often disappointed, and had been reduced to such a state of degradation and wretchedness, that I had come to a determination, by the exercise of those powers which nature had given me, and by a life of industry, to avoid in future those rocks and quicksands upon which I had been so lately wrecked; and that animated by a love of virtue, I could never again consent to fall into that state of apathy, which indolence produces, and which, when indulged to a certain length, never fails to end in certain destruction.

Lord B—— appeared to admire my heroic sentiments, and said, that it would be a misfortune, *the King should loose the use of talents so splendid and appropriate*; and if I would rely upon his zeal, he should consider himself bound to secure to me the possession of my most sanguine hopes.

Though

Though I had determined not to suffer such allurements to divert me from my object, yet there was something too flattering in such apparent disinterested promises, for me to be able to withstand them: and whether it was, that I found my vanity gratified by his eulogium upon my abilities or not, I will leave you to determine; but I *thought at that moment, he was the most graceful orator and finished gentleman I had ever known.*

I immediately sent to London for my baggage which I had deposited with a trusty housekeeper, and after putting myself into my former garb, I waited upon Lord B—at Lilbourn House, the place of his country residence, where I was received in the most obliging and affable manner by Lady B——.

Lady B—— after having been the toast of the town, and the admiration of the fashionable circles, had married Lord B—about two years previous to that æra, and still possessed all that radiance of beauty,

that gaiety of youth, and that irresistible grace, which were the peculiar attributes of Venus.

It was at that season when nature in all her glory wore her gayest attire, when pleasure seemed to be spontaneous—It was in that season when the animal spirits receive a glow from the genial warmth of the voluptuous winds, which were perfumed with the aromatic fragrance of the groves through which they had passed, and when every thing animate seemed to be impregnated with the seeds of love.

The piercing brightness of her eyes communicated a mild effulgence to her animated features, which bespoke a divinity of soul, commanding at once, both reverence and esteem.

I was sensible of my danger, and said to Lord B——, that though I considered myself much obliged by his proffered friendship and support, and highly gratified in the pleasure of his society, yet it would be impossible

impossible for me, to be able to endure a life of such inactivity; and if he would not attribute my leaving him to disrespect, I would prosecute my former resolution, which alone could secure me that tranquillity I had so long desired, and which I was convinced I could never receive, but from a state of independence.

To such reasoning Lord B—— answered, that he thought I was actuated by the most capricious folly; for that the summer would soon pass over, when he should return to town, and then there would be no doubt of his obtaining for me every thing which I could expect.

This remonstrance diverted me from my resolution; but at the same time I determined to rise early, and by that means I should avoid breakfasting with Lord and Lady B—, which would prevent my being of Lady B——'s morning parties, for I ever considered those with fine women, the most dangerous; and by walking in the

garden, which was very extensive, I hoped to pass my mornings in solitary study, and thus elude the shafts of love.

I continued this plan for some time; but it was impossible for me to remain ignorant of the domestic bickerings that agitated the tender heart of Lady B——. I had frequently observed her bosom palpitating with contending passions, and had as often seen the tears of sorrow, like the lustres in heaven, eradiate the divinity of her charms.

These scenes were too pathetic for me, not to feel the most lively concern for the cause of her quietude. I found the air of gaiety which she had been used to put on, was entirely forced; and as her chagrin appeared daily to increase, it was impossible for her any longer to hide the poignancy of her sorrows.

Beauty is never so formidable as when in tears—It is then that every charm receives additional lustre, and when the heart

is

is softened to pity, the arrows of love are mortal at every shot.

Great God ! how ineffably painful is that scene when a sensible and beautiful woman, with the most delicate feelings of honour, finds herself injured, and has no appeal for justice ?

Was that exquisite sensibility given to them that they should be mortified and made miserable ? Can folly, or arrogance, or the presumptive madness of man conceive that the master-piece of nature—the perfection of the immense designs of the DEITY, could have been formed to become the sport of unfeeling contumely, and to fall a victim to matrimonial tyranny ?—a virtuous man cannot.—

Or rather does it not prove how much they are entitled to our protection and support ? and I pronounce that man a paltron who would suffer any consideration under heaven, to weigh with him, when the feelings of an unprotected woman have been

violated, and she insulted, for having pretensions to a delicacy to which a brute is a stranger.

It was under such ideas that I did not hesitate to say to Lord B——, that there appeared to be something in Lady B—— that indicated an uneasiness of mind, and I hoped it was not of such a nature as to be lasting. I begged that he would forgive me for the interest I had taken in their reciprocal happiness; but that it was impossible for me to see any person, much less a virtuous and amiable woman, miserable, without endeavouring to alleviate their distress.

Lord B—— said with great coldness, and with a sarcastic air, that it was impossible for some women to be otherwise than unhappy—for they were under the most ungovernable caprices; and that was Lady B——'s misfortune, or rather his, and which had made him apprehend for some time

time past, that they would lead to their mutual wretchedness.

I again remonstrated, and told him that she appeared to me to be of the most amiable disposition; and wondered if she was so different as he had represented her, how it would be possible to be so compleat a counterfeit?—He said in answer, that it was quite the fashion of the times for fine women to have fine feelings; and that it was now looked upon as quite *brutish* for a man to go to bed to his wife in a state of *intoxication*, which was at once endeavouring to destroy all our social pleasures, and rendering a man's life as insipid as the amusements of women—In short, said he, it is a direct attack upon our *prerogatives*, which if we surrender, we should become the most abject and contemptible animals in the creation.

I still attempted to reason with him, but it was all in vain, for he was decided in the opinion, that the *tranquillity* of society depended upon the *tyranny* which should be

continually exercised over them, otherwise a female empire would destroy every thing that was beautiful, and which the talents of ages had accumulated.'

To such absurdities no arguments were of any avail. I told him I differed so compleatly from him in my opinions, that it was impossible for me to witness the exercise of such a tyranny with indifference; and as it appeared not to be possible for me to afford any relief to either of them, he must forgive me, when I told him I should depart the next day.

Lord B—— would not hear a word upon that subject, for whether or not it proceeded from shame or design I cannot decidedly say, but it is however certain, that he was more strenuous than ever, in preventing my departure; for he said, he had expected much from my society, and had not been disappointed.

Such, my dear girl, was the prelude to all my subsequent miseries, and which I never recapitulate,

recapitulate, but I reprobate customs of the world, that are entirely repugnant to nature; particularly those which diabolically oppress the weak. Farewell, my dear friend, you shall hear from me by the next opportunity.

I am affectionately, your's, &c.

P. P—.

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and the following day he was off to Washington to meet his old friends, and to speak before Congress. He had a very busy time, and was greatly fatigued by the long journey, but he did his best, and was well received.

LET.

## LETTER XXIII.

*P. P. Esq. to Miss Caroline T——n.*

Laurel-mount, Jan.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

WHEN virtue is united with beauty, and love with firmness, they ultimately will lead to the alleviation of those distresses, in which the peculiar circumstances of fortune may have placed them.

I had made up my mind to depart in the morning, though Lord B—— had signified his disapprobation of such a measure, and even went so far, as to say, that, after his friends had understood I meant to pass the summer months with him, my sudden departure would be considered unfavourable to his hospitality and good name.

But

But as it would have been highly improper I should have gone without acknowledging to Lady B——, how very much I felt myself honoured by her politeness, and how much I lamented the cause of that necessity, which compelled me to return to town, which I intended to have made as an excuse, I had risen as usual, and after walking for some time in the garden, I returned to the breakfast-room, where I expected to find both Lord and Lady B——; when I meant to take my leave of them—but I was disappointed. My Lord was at breakfast by himself.

I inquired after Lady B——'s health, and expressed my alarm at not finding her down. My Lord said that she was in one of her blessed humours, and as he had become so used to them, they had ceased to have any effect upon him; and then added, that he was going to have some fish-ponds drawn, which would be his amusement for the day, and that he did not doubt

doubt but Lady B—— would be recovered by the evening.

I still determined not to depart without making my acknowledgments to Lady B——; and as I thought it was very likely she would be confined the whole day to her bed-chamber, which was frequently the case, I made up my mind to wait until the next day.

I had generally been of my Lord B——'s parties; but upon that occasion I declined it, alledging, I had some letters to write, which required my immediate attention.

Going into the garden, where I intended to have amused myself until Lord B—— should return to dinner, which he said would be as usual at six o'clock; I was agreeably surprized to find Lady B—— was sitting in an alcove at the farther end of the ground—I stepped immediately that way, and on my approach she seemed quite abforbed, and did not at first take notice of my advance. I halted for fear

fear of interrupting her, and was about to turn back, when she observed me, and said, Good morning to you, Sir, I understood that you had accompanied my Lord —, who, Sophia told me, had gone upon a fishing party. I then entered the alcove, and said, that I had excused myself to my Lord, and begged that I might not interrupt her studies, for she was sitting with a book in her hand.

A deep sigh escaped her, and I felt every wound in my heart bleed afresh. She had been drying up her tears; but nature must have vent—and when the torrent of emotions have been checked, they generally accumulate in such force as to overturn the barriers of pride, and it is when the divinity of the soul floats in tears, that it creates a sensibility, which like an electrical shock, rouses into action the most dormant animation.

Her whole faculties were for a time suspended with the proud idea, that her rank and

and virtue would shield her from the animadversions of an invidious world; and that by concealing her wrongs, the dignity of her name would escape the obliquy of censorious fools, who spend half their lives in disseminating scandal, and calumniating their neighbours; which constitute the *primum mobile* of their colloquial vivacity,—is the food of their envy, and the spring of their every felicity.

Her labouring emotions at length so agitated her tender bosom, that every returning swell appeared to threaten her with immediate destruction; but when her tears began to flow, the inward storm subsided into a serene calm, and her soft azure eye gave a mild radiance to her charms, which was love itself, robed in all its celestial splendour.

The die was cast—I stood upon the banks of the Rubicon. I must either have retreated like a coward, and have abandoned the empire of the world, or by a stroke

stroke of manly courage, cross the limits of despotism, and risque from oppression and tyranny the most lovely creature upon earth.

Who is so base as to say they would have hesitated?—What, desert the perfection of beauty in distress, and suffer virtue to mourn without offering it protection?

No, by heavens! when a degenerate world stands by, and beholds every day with indifference, their privileges trampled upon, and make sport of the miseries of unfortunate woman who have been driven over the brink of perdition, by the injustice of nefarious codes; shall no man dare to take their part? Who is so infensible as to be moderate when reprobating a conduct so infamous and contemptible?

No, Caroline, I did not hesitate—I fell upon one knee, and seizing her hand at the same time, I exclaimed, here will I for ever rest until I know the cause which makes you unhappy? I have no claim, to your confidence, but as a man of honour, and if you will permit me to profer  
you

you my friendship, I here pledge myself by the sacred ties of a Gentleman, in the presence of that luminary which warms into life the whole creation, but which in future will not effect me, only, as the smiles again resume their empire in your face.

Ten thousand thoughts appeared to rush into her imagination — honour, candour, and pride, seemed to contend for dominion; but the innocence of her heart, betrayed the sentiments of her mind.

I attempted to relieve her perplexity by saying, I knew the cause of her misery; and as my Lord had done me the honour to converse with familiarity upon his domestic concerns, I begged that I might be permitted to represent to him, to what a dangerous length her unhappiness had increased. She replied, that it was in vain; for his Lordship had for a series of time been in such habits of life, that it would be next to impossible for him to lay them aside. And it was from their influence, that his mind and manners were become so vitiated, that nothing

nothing short of regeneration would effect a change; for she had used every persuasion and entreaty, to divert him from the practice of drinking, without producing any other end, than having herself abused—adding, that his Lordship was one of those extraordinary men, who considered women merely as a domestic machine, necessary only as they are an embellishment to their house, and the only means by which their family can be perpetuated.

“ And is it possible that your friends my  
“ Lady,” replied I, “ can suffer you to be-  
“ come a sacrifice to the tyranny of absurd  
“ customs, and the vanity of nonsensical  
“ grandeur? Is it possible that they can be-  
“ hold the roses fade upon your cheeks,  
“ and the spring of youth overcast with  
“ the *sombre* reflections of a heart, labour-  
“ ing in the elements of virtue, pride, and  
“ inclination, and not attempt to rescue  
“ you from a situation so repugnant to  
“ your

" your nature, and so dangerous to your  
" health and constitution?

" How is it possible," answered she, " for  
" my friends, in my present situation, to  
" remove my distresses? I am bound to  
" my Lord by the ties of matrimony, which  
" it is not possible to dissolve, but under  
" circumstances which are as repugnant to  
" delicacy, as they are remote from my  
" thoughts; and which make situations like  
" mine the more deplorable, as there is  
" no retreating from them with honour;  
" and to endure them, is a thought too  
" painful for a quick and lively sensibility  
" to support:" and continued, with saying,  
that she had made up her mind upon the  
subject; which was to be as little with Lord  
B—— as possible, and to seek in study for  
that amusement she had been taught to  
expect from the attention and conversation  
of a husband; adding, that when she was  
married, she was so young that it was im-  
possible for her to have had an adequate

idea of the nature of so solemn an engagement—that her family had made the match from motives of convenience, in which her heart never had any concern, and that she had been induced to accede to their importunities, from considerations of filial tenderness and duty, *without having the most distant idea of what fatal consequences might flow from such an acquiescence.*

She then begged I would not think she slighted my friendship, for that she regarded the candour which marked my conversations with his Lordship, and assured me, that when I was not better engaged, she should be happy to see me in the alcove; the place she intended should become her summer's retirement and study; alledging that company began to be disagreeable to her, as it brought to her mind the innocent pastimes of her youth, and the recollection of those dreams of pleasure, which a lively and credulous imagination had furnished.

I then

I then told her of the determination I had taken to leave Lilbourn House, and recapitulated the conversations which passed between his Lordship and myself; cautiously avoiding to repeat such parts as could tend to strengthen the difference between them, and which was the real cause why I had not attended my Lord that day. She said it would give her concern if I should put myself to any inconvenience on her account; and told me by way of proof, that those disagreements would not happen again; for the struggle I in part had witnessed, was the cause of the agitation of a mind sensibly alive to every sentiment of duty and honour, then labouring in the event of a determination, which she had made, and which was never to enter the bed of my Lord B—— again; for his conduct to her that morning, after coming to her two hours after midnight in a state of intoxication, was too gross for a woman of spirit and delicacy to forget; adding, that he

he had every chance given him from time to time to shew his compunction, and to reform; but that he had proved, by a series of contempt and indifference, no such change was to be expected; and that she would sooner sacrifice her life than her delicacy; which would be, after the treatment she had received, a most ignominious prostitution.

In this kind of manner we passed a most melancholy day, but as I observed that Lady B—— was firm, and seemed to become more and more collected, I again relinquished my design of departing from Lilbourn House, and upon my Lord's return, which was not untill considerably after six o clock, we returned to dinner.

Permit me, my dear Caroline, to assure you, how much I love and esteem you.

Adieu,

P. P.—.

## LETTER XXIV.

*Miss Caroline T——n to P. P——, Esq.*

Pittsburg, Jan.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I HAVE only time to thank you for your last favour, by the return of your Mercury, and to assure you that I am trembling for your honour—I dread the studies at the alcove—I could almost wish you had flown as you had determined—I will not anticipate you; but I cannot see how it was possible for you to acquit yourself with credit in the state your heart was in—certainly it was imprudent to trust yourself, and as there was no probability of your being of any service to Lady B——, you was not only inconsiderate, but you do not

not appear to have had that regard for her honour, which a delicate sensibility would have inspired; for however manly and pure your motives might have been, it must have given occasion for the servants to talk of Lady B—, which never fails to spread, and thus, what might have been the effect of politeness to you, as my Lord B—'s guest, is turned by their conjectures into a disposition to intrigue; and thereby the reputation of an innocent woman is destroyed, and that peace which you wished to restore is for ever blasted by the resentment of a man, who thinks that his wife has dishonoured him with the very person who was supported by his hospitality, and who had found an asylum in his castle against poverty and wretchedness.

The severity of the winter, and the depth of the snow upon the mountain, has shut out all intercourse between this and Philadelphia, which has prevented our hearing from George, who my father has

been anxiously expecting for some time past, but it is almost impossible, at present, to traverse those frosty regions, so that when I recollect George's fondness to indulgence, I think it is most likely that we shall remain in this place till the approach of spring, and

Untill Cancer reddens with solar beams,  
Unbends the ground, and thaws the weeping  
streams.

We pass our time as agreeable as possible, considering the events that have happened.

Mrs. W—— is the most engaging woman alive, and so continually varies the few amusements of which this place is susceptible, when there is hardly such a thing as moving out of doors, that it is impossible not to find our animation cheered—I wish I had the addition of your society, and then I think I should be happy; but I will not complain if you will relieve me from the anxiety your last has produced.

We

We all join in wishing for a continuation  
of your health and spirits; but believe me  
no one so cordially as your friend

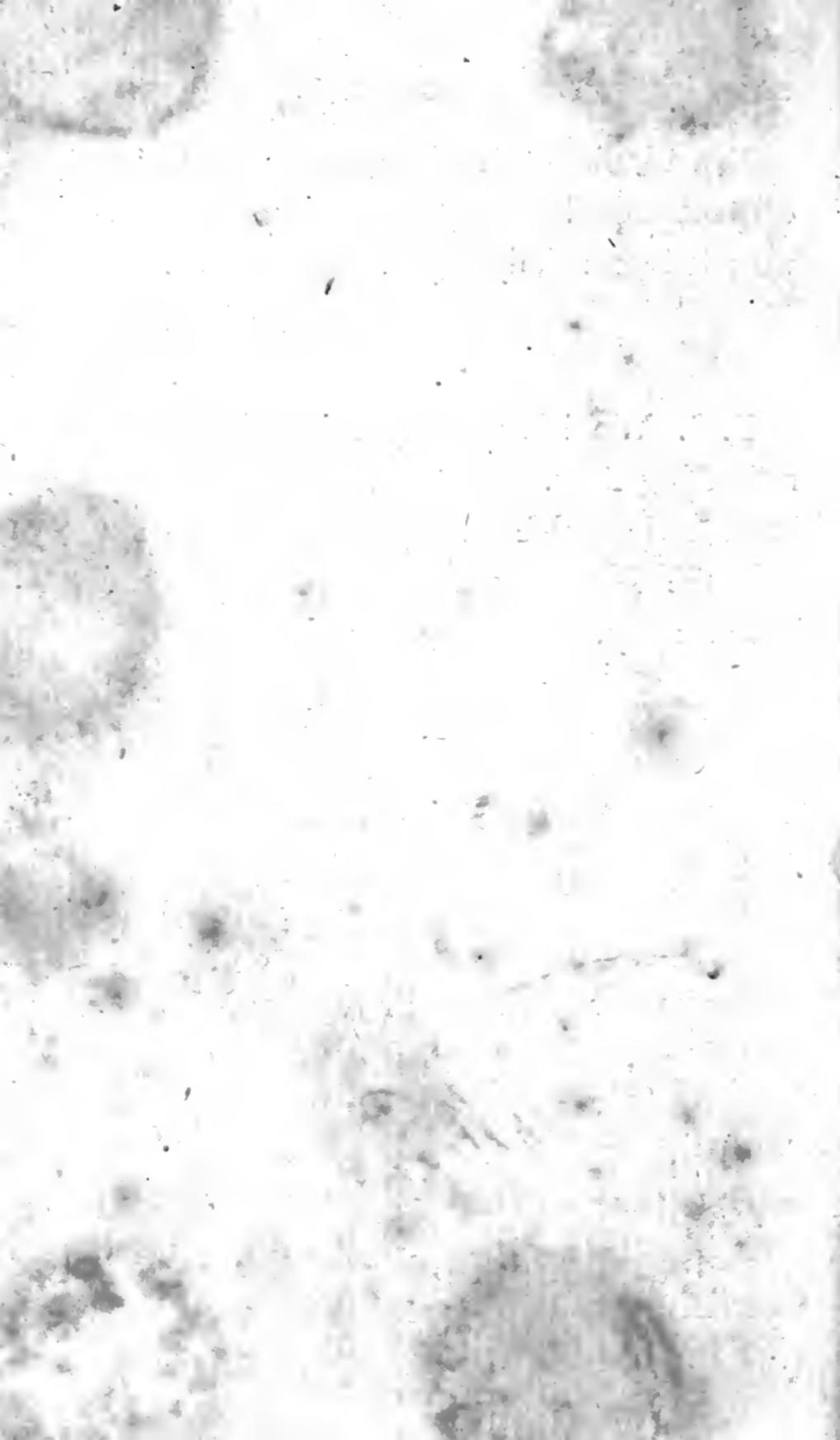
CAROLINE,

P. S. We have not yet heard a word  
respecting Capt. Arl-ton. I wish he may  
have arrived safe at Louisville, for I am  
told the Indians are still at war with the  
low country.

END OF THE FIRST VOLUME.

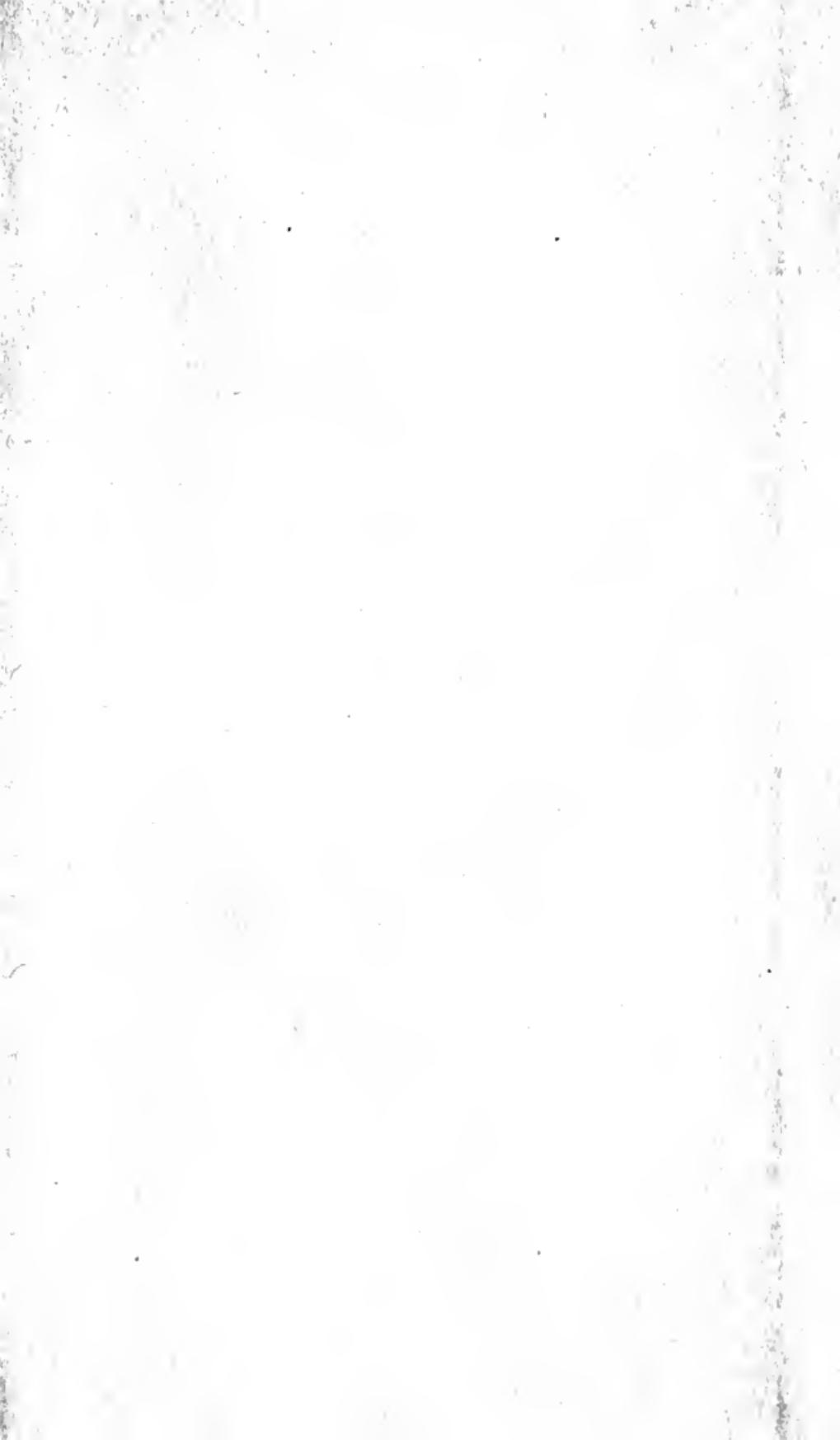
A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J.W." or "John W."

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up here with no many birds  
and others at sea.

At Point in the Harbor.

This evening I went down to the beach and saw the first birds of the night. Among them were  
several sandpipers (red and yellow) and a few  
plover and sandpiper. The remainder were  
mostly gulls.

